

LARSON APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

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LARSON APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) praised his colleagues for passing HR 4386, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, today in the House. The act will provide Medicaid coverage for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women battling breast or cervical cancer. The bill will now go to the President for his signature.

"The burden that these illnesses place on women and their families is tremendous," said Larson. "But for low-income or poorly insured women and their loved ones, the strain is greater because of their limited financial means or lack of adequate insurance coverage. It is my hope that this legislation will help lift some of the burden off of the shoulders of those women who are living with cancer, and their families."

In 1999, Congressman Larson held a press conference at Hartford Hospital to draw attention to a federally funded program that helps detect breast and cervical cancer in their early stages. The program is aimed at women who are at or below 200 percent of the poverty line and are underinsured or have no insurance at all.

Larson is also a co-sponsor of HR 3433, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, that would authorize grants to research centers to study the relationship of certain environmental factors and the origins of breast cancer. This legislation is currently before committee. Larson has also co-signed a letter to Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA), the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Security, to urge his support for a \$175 million dollar appropriation for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program. The program has become renowned for forging new and innovative directions for breast cancer research and science.

Last year, Congressman Larson began the Breast Cancer Prevention Hero Award program, which was later renamed the Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Prevention Heroine Award, after Larson was inspired by the first year's winner, Nancy Pilver of Manchester. Each year, Larson presents the award to a woman in the First Congressional District who has survived breast cancer and continues to fight to ensure future generations will not have to know the pain the illness causes.

Larson will be presenting the award to this year's recipient later this month.

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