

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1994

The Honorable Tom Barlow
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barlow:

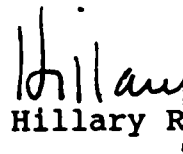
Thank you for your letter about coverage for mammograms under the Health Security Act. We based our mammography coverage on the most recent scientific evidence and the recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Task Force and the American College of Physicians.

Under our proposal, women of any age will be covered for clinician visits, which include clinical breast exams, and screening mammograms, and will pay a standard copayment when they receive these services. All women over 50 will receive routine mammography screening every other year at no cost. Clinician visits will be covered without cost sharing every three years for women ages 20 to 39 and every other year for women ages 40 to 64. In addition, the National Health Board may expand coverage to include annual mammograms at no cost for women at risk for breast cancer.

The Health Security Act also acknowledges that coverage alone will not guarantee that all women receive the care they need. The effectiveness of mammography screening is more likely to be improved by extending testing to women who are not currently being screened than by increasing the frequency of testing. The Act therefore includes funding and programs designed to assure that individuals have real access to the full range of health services provided under the Act and an adequate choice of providers and health plans.

Thank you again for writing about this important issue. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hillary", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hillary Rodham Clinton