
No response.

Past.

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE
ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS

October 19, 1993
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Clinton

FROM: Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn

SUBJECT: Your help in moving forward the Women's Health Research Amendment in HR 2200, The NASA Authorization Act of 1993.

This memo is a follow up to our brief conversation this morning at the White House Breast Cancer meeting.

In July, The NASA Authorization Bill (HR 2200) passed the House of Representatives. My amendment setting aside funding for women's health issues is found in Title 1, section 101, subsection (b) 5. It reads:

Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications, \$426,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, and \$485,700,000 for fiscal year 1995, of which at least \$2,000,000 for each such fiscal year is reserved for research on the causes of breast cancer and ovarian cancers and other women's health issues.

While the NASA authorization bill has passed the House, there is little action in the Senate with regard to an authorization bill in the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, chaired by Senator Hollings. However, Rep. George Brown, Chairman of the House Science Space and Technology Committee recently met with Senator Hollings and asked him to begin moving an Authorization bill so both chambers can proceed to conference on this issue.

Senator Barbara Mikulski, in the Senate VA-HUD Appropriations bill had \$15 million set aside out of Space Station appropriated funds for the flight and ground-based NASA-NIH protocol for microgravity science.

Please note: if and when a NASA authorization bill comes to conference, Chairman John Dingell has told me that he will oppose my amendment on jurisdictional grounds. The attached communication from Chairman George Brown to Chairman Dingell clearly indicates that his jurisdictional concerns are unwarranted.

Your involvement will make the difference in two areas:

1. Ask Senator Hollings to move forward on a Senate NASA Authorization bill as soon as possible, including language on breast and ovarian cancer.
2. As soon as the Senate moves a bill contact Chairman John Dingell and request that he not oppose my language in HR 2200 when it comes to conference.

Attachments

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August 5, 1993

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The Honorable John Dingell
 Chairman
 Committee on Energy and Commerce
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter of June 15 relating to section 101 (b)(5) of the NASA Authorization bill which specifies that \$2 million of NASA's space biomedical research applications budget, currently in excess of \$400 million, address specific women's health issues. Although this provision did not result in a referral of the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I fully recognize your interest and involvement in this area.

As you may know, NASA has an active program in such research applications in order to establish the potential for utilizing the microgravity environment. NASA's mission in this regard is not to perform, for example, cancer research per se, but to fully examine the potential applications that are enabled by space assets to such other fields of research. The amendment offered by Ms. Dunn is fully consistent with this intent.

I fully agree with you, however, that such research should be coordinated within an overall national plan for health research. For this reason, last year our two Committees developed the mechanisms contained in H.R. 3922, the Biomedical Research in Space Act which was subsequently included as Title VI in P.L. 102-588. This legislation built on an existing Memorandum of Understanding between NASA and NIH and established a review and consultation process to ensure the highest scientific quality for any such research sponsored by NASA. At present, NASA and NIH are in the process of developing joint plans for this emerging field of research.

In your letter, you expressed doubt that microgravity research on health related problems will lead to any useful outcome and you suggested that space research funding be directed to

The Honorable John Dingell
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Page 2

other projects. Although I deeply respect your judgement on these matters, I retain the belief that our ability to understand and utilize the microgravity environment is at a very early threshold. Although the amount of identifiable NASA funding relative to other NIH health research programs within your jurisdiction is extremely small, there has been some encouraging progress in space related research and I would be happy to provide you with additional information if you desire.

Finally, I would like to point out that, although this bill was taken up quickly after it was reported out of the Committee, it was open for amendment and debate for an extended period of time on the Floor over the past month. As far as I know there were no objections to this provision during Floor consideration.

I would like to continue to work with you on these matters and seek your advice in every way possible. However, I would ask that you keep an open mind on the potential for utilizing the microgravity environment for biomedical research and I will encourage the continuation of the coordinated planning outlined in P.L. 102-588.

Sincerely,



GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
Chairman

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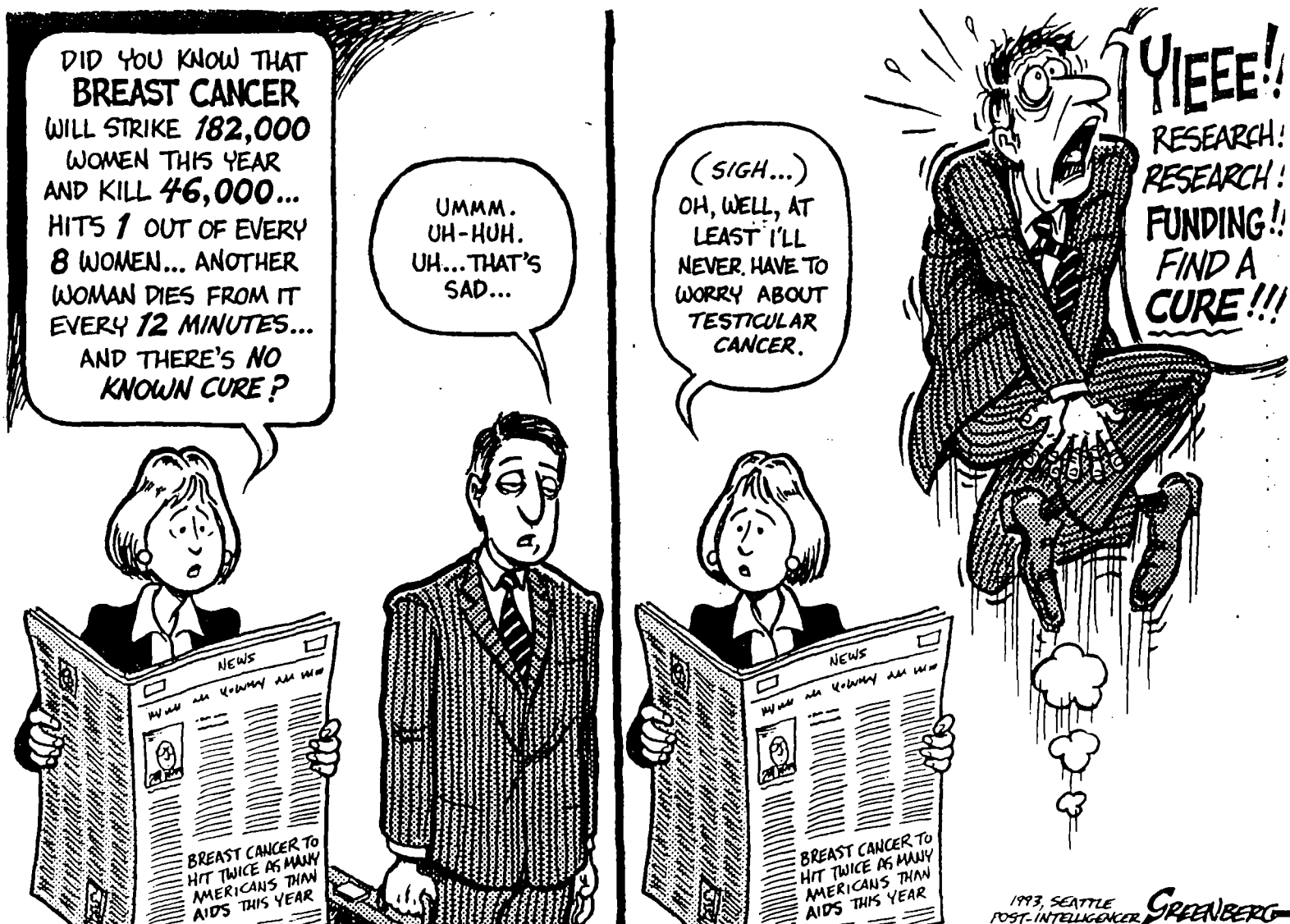
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Seattle Post-Intelligencer

A HEARST NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 11, 1993

MORNING



For Mrs. Clinton's clip's