

Devorah R. Adler
03/27/2000 12:34:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Heather H. Howard/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: breast cancer research

BUILDS ON THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER. The

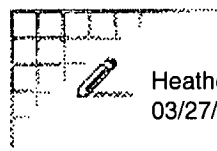
Clinton-Gore Administration has responded to the significant threat posed by breast and cervical cancer with increased efforts in research, prevention and treatment. Fighting the spread of this disease has been a high priority for both Vice President Gore and First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Vice President Al Gore successfully fought for historic increases in funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment at the National Cancer Institutes during the Clinton-Gore Administration. He has also advocated for access to cancer clinical trials for new cancer drugs for Medicare beneficiaries as Medicare currently does not cover these cutting edge treatments. In 1997, Vice President Gore unveiled the Cancer Genome Anatomy Project, an effort to unravel the genetics of cancer which will help scientists develop new treatments that more effectively target cancer. This effort has already more than doubled its original goals. He has also advocated for legislation that prevents employers and health insurers from discriminating on the basis of genetic information. Studies show that a leading reason that women choose not to take genetic tests for breast cancer is fear that this information will be used against them.

First Lady Hillary Clinton championed budget increases for the National Cancer Institute and other agencies to support research on breast cancer detection, treatment, and cures; launched the Medicare Mammography Campaign to urge older women to get mammograms and to promote the use of Medicare coverage for mammography, implemented by the Clinton Administration; helped develop and implement the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, a public-private partnership coordinated at the Department of Health and Human Services; advocated for legislation pending before the Congress to ensure that women who have mastectomies are entitled to sufficient hospital stays from their HMOs.

During the Clinton Administration, funding for breast and cervical cancer research, prevention and treatment increased from approximately \$283 million in FY 1993 to \$623 million in FY 2000. President Clinton enacted the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms. Finally, the President's Medicare reform plan would eliminate all cost sharing for mammograms and pap smears, which should increase the number of older women using these

critical services.



Heather H. Howard
03/27/2000 12:05:08 PM

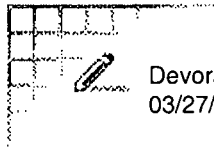
Record Type: Record

To: Laura E. Schiller/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: breast cancer stats

I'm working on getting your breast cancer research stats, but this is from the 2/5/00 announcement I gave you: "During the Clinton Administration, funding for breast and cervical cancer research, prevention and treatment increased from approximately \$520 million in FY 1993 to \$844 million in FY 2000."



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Breast and Ovarian Cancer Issues

New Option for Uninsured Women with Breast and Cervical Cancer

In February, the President announced a new initiative to help cover uninsured women who have breast and cervical cancer. The FY 2001 budget invests \$200 million over five years in a new Medicaid option that allows states to provide low income, uninsured women who were diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program with the full Medicaid benefits package for the duration of their treatment. A fact sheet on this program is attached.

Funding Levels

Funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has more than doubled from fiscal years 1993 to 2000 – from \$283 million to \$623 million. Funding for ovarian cancer research at the National Cancer Institute has also increased dramatically, from \$20.7 million in fiscal 1992 to \$62.7 million in fiscal year 2000.

Genetic Discrimination

On February 8, 2000, President Clinton signed an executive order prohibiting every federal department and agency from using genetic information in any hiring or promotion action. He also endorsed the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act of 1999, introduced by Senator Daschle and Congresswoman Slaughter, which would extend these protections to the private sector and to individuals purchasing health insurance. These protections are important because employers could use genetic tests to discriminate against workers, such as women predisposed to breast cancer, in order to avoid increased costs associated with those workers. A fact sheet on the executive order is attached.