



COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR AND
BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING,
AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SCIENCE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Dear Friend,

As a woman and as a legislator, I deeply admire the unwavering efforts and successes of breast cancer advocates. Who among us has not been touched in some way by this disease? The Los Angeles Breast Cancer Alliance's passionate advocacy, in conjunction with the National Breast Cancer Coalition, has helped yield many successes over the years, from the establishment of the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, to the massive increases in the breast cancer research budget of the National Institutes of Health. As is so often the case, the combination of passion, information, and commitment can shape government action.

But there is still much to be done. After decades of research, there is still no known cause, prevention or cure for breast cancer. Every year, more than 40,000 women still die of the disease, an unacceptably high number. In fact, the only acceptable number is zero.

Research suggests that certain lifestyles and hereditary factors contribute to the onset of breast cancer. But there is also troubling evidence that environmental factors, such as exposure to certain toxic chemicals, may affect a woman's chances of developing the disease. Common pesticides, widely accepted agricultural methods, and even chemicals in everyday household items may contribute to breast cancer. We need to understand these linkages better.

Understanding the causes of the disease is a critical step toward developing strategies for prevention, and ultimately, a cure. There is a bill in Congress that would help get us to that goal, HR 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. The legislation, which I'm co-sponsoring, will make grants to research the effects of environmental factors on the incidence of breast cancer.

I'll do my part in Congress by continuing to speak out, build support for HR 2231, and work with my colleagues to get it passed. But I need the Los Angeles Breast Cancer Alliance to help by continuing to carry out its mission- raise awareness, keep pressure on Congress, and provide momentum for change.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month may be over, but our efforts must not flag. It's the collective efforts of people like you that will ultimately bring success in our fight against breast cancer.

Warmest Regards,

Jane Harman

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