

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1089

By: Boyd (Betty) of the House

and

Williams (Penny) of the
Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing congress to enact legislation exempting annual mammograms from the Medicare deductible; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, one in eight Oklahoma women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 500 or more Oklahoma women die annually from breast cancer and 58% of these women who die yearly are under 70 years of age, many of whose deaths are preventable, premature deaths had the cancer been detected in an early stage; and

WHEREAS, only 30% of Oklahoma women 65 years of age and older have had a mammogram in the last two years, even though this age group is at high risk for breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, 75% of the women 65 years of age and older, who are served by the Oklahoma State Department of Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, have not had a physical examination in five to seven years because they are unable to pay the Medicare deductible yearly; and

WHEREAS, from 1991 to 1994, there was no increase in the number of women 50 years of age and older receiving mammograms, the age at

which mammography is the most cost-effective and clinically effective; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer costs \$215,000 per case to treat when diagnosed in late stages, whereas cases diagnosed in an early stage cost \$30,000 on average; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has recognized since 1988 the benefits of mammograms for women by enacting legislation requiring health insurers to pay up to \$75 for annual mammograms for women 40 years old and over; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma legislation cannot affect mammogram coverage or reimbursement policy for Medicare and Medicare supplemental policies; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Retired Persons has made breast cancer screening a national priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact legislation exempting annual mammograms from the Medicare deductible.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be sent to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the clerks of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, the chief operating officer of the federal Medicare program, the chief operating officer of the American Association of Retired Persons, and the presiding officers of the legislature in each state.

45-2-9748

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