



Monroe County Legislature

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Committee Assignment
Memorializing Request -L

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: **Memorializing The United States Congress to Pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (S.579/H.R. 1157)**

Honorable Legislators:

Breast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in American women, second only to skin cancer. Approximately three million women in the U.S. are currently living with breast cancer, and tragically, it is estimated that over 40,000 women will die from the disease this year. The causes of breast cancer remain largely unknown. While certain factors have been identified that increase a woman's risk, such as age or genetic predisposition, they explain fewer than 30 percent of breast cancer diagnoses.

Environmental factors have long been suspected to play a role in the development of breast cancer, but unfortunately, research in this area has been very limited. Earlier this year, lawmakers in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives introduced the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, legislation that would provide funds for further study of environmental factors that may be linked to breast cancer. The legislation establishes a competitive and peer-reviewed grant program, administered by the National Institutes of Health, that would fund the development of research centers, and it provides for the development of a comprehensive, national strategy for this area of breast cancer research.

In order to effectively fight breast cancer, a study of environmental risk factors is essential. The work undertaken by these research centers could provide information that is desperately needed to understand the causes of this devastating disease, help prevent it, and ultimately find a cure. Therefore, I urge you to join me in memorializing the U.S. Congress to pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (S.579/H.R. 1157).

Respectfully submitted,

Carla M. Palumbo
Carla M. Palumbo
Democratic Leader

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