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SANDERS URGES VOTE FOR CANCER REGISTRIES BILL

Representative Bernard Sanders (I,VT) will take to the floor of the House of Representatives today in support of the reauthorization bill for the National Institutes of Health (H.R. 2507), which includes the Cancer Registries Amendment Act written and introduced by Sanders. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

Sanders will be speaking during the debate on the bill, probably between 10 am and noon. It is expected that several members of the Women's Caucus will speak also.

Sanders' Cancer Registries Amendment Act, H.R. 4206, was introduced in February and was attached to the NIH reauthorization in conference earlier this month. It currently has 108 cosponsors and is supported by the American Cancer Society, the Breast Cancer Coalition and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. This legislation was written as a result of the efforts of thousands of Vermont women, led by breast cancer activists Joanne Rathgeb and Virginia Soffa, who were concerned about the lack of governmental action to prevent cancer.

The bill would provide \$30 million per year for 4 years to enable states to establish and improve their cancer registry capabilities. Currently 10 states completely lack cancer registries and most others only have incomplete ones. The bill would also fund a \$1 million study to determine why rates of breast cancer deaths in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states are higher than in the rest of the country.

The Cancer Registries Amendment Act is the subject of an article in the current (June 1992) issue of Reader's Digest. The article suggests that the Cancer Registries Amendment Act is "the Cancer Weapon America Needs Most." It says that the network of cancer registries established by the bill "can be our most potent new weapon against the disease", and estimates that "it could save thousands of lives and billions of dollars." The article is written by Dr. John Healy, chief of orthopedic surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The Reader's Digest article is attached.

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