

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 166

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 1997

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Resolution No. 166.

As amended by the committee, this resolution memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to endorse and seek to implement changes in current federal government policy, as well as the National Cancer Institute to revise its position, regarding the need for all women to receive an annual mammography screening beginning at age 40 in accordance with the guidelines of the American Cancer Society, and to ensure that the Medicare program covers annual mammograms for its women beneficiaries.

The committee amended the resolution to clarify its intent to support annual mammography screening for all women beginning at age 40 and continuing through the rest of their lives. The committee amendments also add a reference in the preamble to research data which indicate that particular categories of women, such as those age 65 and over, African-American women and the indigent, are at special risk for breast cancer, as compared with younger, white and more affluent women, because they are less likely to receive mammograms and consequently have higher breast cancer mortality rates since their disease is diagnosed at a later stage.

This resolution was introduced as a follow-up to a joint public hearing conducted by the Assembly Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee and the Assembly Health Committee on March 21, 1997, at which widespread support for mammography screening of women beginning at age 40 was expressed by representatives of the American Cancer Society-New Jersey Division, Inc., the American College of Radiology, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the UMDNJ/University Hospital, Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Englewood Hospital, the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Monmouth Medical Center, Somerset Medical Center, the Radiology Group of New Brunswick, the New Jersey Health Officers Association, the New Jersey Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Initiative in the Department of Health and Senior Services, the

Commission on Cancer Research, the Division on Women in the Department of Community Affairs, and the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the New Brunswick Area Senior Medical Director for the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Pharmaceutical Group and members of the general public.