

Date:

Honorable

United States

Washington, D.C.

Re: Support for the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001

Dear

I am writing in strong support of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has decided to discontinue the Breast Cancer Research Stamp next year in spite of the fact that public support, sales and money raised for research all remain strong. The USPS has sold over 310 million Breast Cancer Research Stamps in the past three years, raising over \$21.5 million for vital research at the National Institutes of Health and Department of Defense breast cancer research programs as of July 2001. The awareness that this stamp designed to save lives continues to raise is priceless.

On July 26 of this year, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), together with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and 74 colleagues, introduced **The Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001 -- S. 1256, which, if enacted, will extend the life of the first fundraising (“semipostal”) stamp in U.S. history for an additional six years - until July 29, 2008.** The Senate bill already had nearly 80 co-sponsors -- almost 80% of the United States Senate on board before the summer recess.

United States Representative Sue Kelly (R-19-NY), together with Representatives David Dreier (R-28-CA), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-37-CA) and 125 colleagues, introduced the House companion bill on August 2 of this year. Over 25% of the U.S. House of Representatives had already signed on as co-sponsors to The Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001 -- H.R. 2725 before the summer recess.

The House and Senate bills are identical. Passage of the legislation will:

- Reauthorize the stamp for an additional six years – from July 30, 2002 until July 29, 2008.
- Permit additional semipostal (fundraising) stamps for other worthy causes to be issued during this time span.
- Provide that the premium (cost above first-class postage rate) remains at least 15 percent higher than the cost of a regular first-class stamp, ensuring a steady stream of research funds regardless of inflation.
- Continue to price the stamp in five-cent intervals, allowing for its continued sale through vending machines and other points of sale.

I urge you to support the passage of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001 and thank you for your consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Name:

Organization:

Address: