

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison

**Statement, Full Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee
and Public Health Subcommittee**

Mammography Hearing

February 28, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad we have the opportunity today to disseminate the correct information in regards to mammography. It is important for women to know that mammography is an important tool in our fight against breast cancer.

I am a cosponsor on Sen. Feinstein's cancer legislation which was introduced yesterday. This legislation addresses the issue of mammography. It mandates that everyone has a right to receive a mammogram who is 40 years of age or older or is at high risk of developing breast cancer. We understand the importance of mammography enough to put it into legislation. It is our responsibility to further ensure that the public is encouraged to take the steps necessary to detect cancer at an early stage.

I am concerned after reading the recent *Washington Post* (February 17th) article that women will not be encouraged to get a mammogram. The head of general medicine at a Seattle hospital stated that she was not pressuring women to have a mammogram. If there are questions or misinformation at that level of expertise, then what is the general public thinking? Women don't necessarily want to have one in the first place and if an "out" is presented to them, then they may take it.

This is why I reiterate that it is important that we get the correct information out about mammography and that screening should start at 40. More than 2,600 women in Texas will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and it would be greatly disturbing to have these numbers rise higher when we are just beginning to win the battle.

I hope at this hearing today we clarify the issues for ourselves and the public.