



March 10, 2004

**House Committee on Health and Human Services  
HR 6010**

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gwendolyn Cargnel, Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society. I represent over 5,000 volunteers and supporters in Kansas, and on their behalf, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to ask for your support on House Resolution 6010.

House Resolution 6010 urges this committee to review information and data regarding cervical cancer and cervical cancer screening. A review of this information may provide better options for increasing screening accuracy and for ensuring access to regular cervical screening.

While mortality rates from cervical cancer have declined sharply over the past several decades an estimated 4,100 deaths will occur.

Symptoms do not appear until abnormal cervical cells become cancerous and invade nearby tissue. The Pap test is a simple procedure that can be performed by a health care professional as part of a pelvic exam. When detected at an early stage, invasive cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable cancers. Unfortunately for many women the lack of education and understanding keeps them from having their cancer caught early when it is most treatable.

This committee has an opportunity to find ways to reach out to a segment of the population that at this point is missing the opportunities that come with early detection of cervical cancer. I urge this Committee to recommend HR 6010 for passage to the House.

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