

mammography, they rank dead last in utilization of this life-saving procedure for the detection of breast cancer. And if you will look at the information that was passed out to you late yesterday afternoon, there is a chart in there that shows that Nebraska women in 1989 were 50th of all the states in those who have never had a mammogram. I would like to provide you with a little background about this legislation, but before I begin, I would like to set the stage with comments about the incidence of breast cancer and the mammogram procedure, because much has been in the press lately about it. First, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number one killer of Nebraska women. Just recently, the American Cancer Society revised its estimates for the average American woman's lifetime risk for developing breast cancer from 1 in 10 to 1 in 9. Now if you think about it, if you have got nine women in your family, aunts, mothers, sisters, daughters, cousins, the expectation is that 1 out of those 9 women will have breast cancer at some point in her life. Marilyn Quayle, wife of the Vice President, who has been stricken with breast cancer, puts the numbers this way. In the ten year period of the Vietnam conflict, 69,000 Americans died in that conflict. During the same period, 300,000 American women died from breast cancer. Further we find breast cancer has claimed roughly six times as many lives in the last decade as AIDS, yet the federal government spent roughly ten times as much on AIDS research. January 1st, 1991 was a milestone date for Medicaid eligible women and Medicare eligible women. Mammogram screening coverage for Nebraska's low income women became effective on this date, and provision for mammography screening also became effective on this date for women in Nebraska, who are 65 years of age and older. Last October, when the federal budget was compressed into the new Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, \$1.3 million was added to the Social Security budget for coverage of screening. This came after sustained effort to push mammography in the state legislatures. The legislative movement began in 1986 and has gained momentum until the close of 1990. Thirty-two states have passed legislation regarding mammography. And, again, if you will refer to the materials I gave you yesterday, there is a chart, a two-page chart in here that shows you all the states with mammography laws, with different kinds, some requiring mandatory coverage, some requiring age and frequency guidelines, and other quality assurance provisions. In states with the most comprehensive legislation provide for coverage of all types of health plans including HMOs and most commercial insurance carriers within the purview of federal regulations. State