



H.R. 1236 – To make permanent the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp to support breast cancer research

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1236 was introduced by Representative William Lacy Clay (D-MO) on February 28, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported as amended from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, by voice vote, on October 25, 2007.

H.R. 1236 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND

In 1997, Congress passed the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act (P.L. 105-41), which authorized the sale of breast cancer postage stamps by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to support breast cancer research and raise awareness of this disease.

According to the USPS, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp has raised more than \$54 million since 1998 - seventy percent of the proceeds going to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and thirty percent going to the Medical Research Program at the Department of Defense.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp sells for 55 cents, which is 14 cents more than the rate of a regular first class stamp.

According to the National Cancer Institute, “breast cancer is the most common non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in women.” The National Cancer Institute estimates that more than 179,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1236 extends the authority of the USPS to issue the Breast Cancer Research Stamp until December 31, 2011.

In addition, it requires the NIH to submit annual reports to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to outline the spending of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp proceeds.

COST

“CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1236 would affect direct spending in most of the years 2008 through 2014, but would have no net effect on direct spending over the period as a whole. On balance, we estimate that enacting the bill would result in a net reduction

in direct spending of \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period; that savings would be offset by increased direct spending in 2013 and 2014, leading to no net impact over the 2008-2017 period.

The legislation would not affect revenues and would have no impact on direct spending after 2014. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have discretionary costs of less than \$500,000 annually for NIH to prepare reports on its spending of the proceeds from sales of the special stamp.” [CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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