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CONGRESSMAN
Eliot L. Engel

M.C.
Presorted Standard
Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress

Dear Neighbor:

As your Member of Congress, I am working to improve and protect the quality of life of the people of the Bronx, Rockland, and Westchester. I have prepared this report to update you on some of my recent work in Congress.

The Violence Against Women Act expires later this year and I am a co-sponsor of legislation to renew this important law that is so critical in combating domestic violence and sexual assault.

Equal pay for equal work is long overdue. I am co-sponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act to make it a reality. To improve health care and education, I am working to pass the Prevention First Act that provides all women with access to comprehensive family planning options and education. I am also a cosponsor of a bill to require insurance coverage for mammograms as well as a national education program to educate women about gynecological cancer.

I am continuing my efforts to change our nation's health care system. I have written and supported legislation to create a structure where people can find affordable, quality health care when people get sick, lose their jobs or have jobs that do not provide health care benefits.

As always, I ask that you send me your opinions, suggestions and views on these and other crucial issues. You can also go to my website www.house.gov/engel to contact me and to sign up for my special e-mail updates.

July, 2005

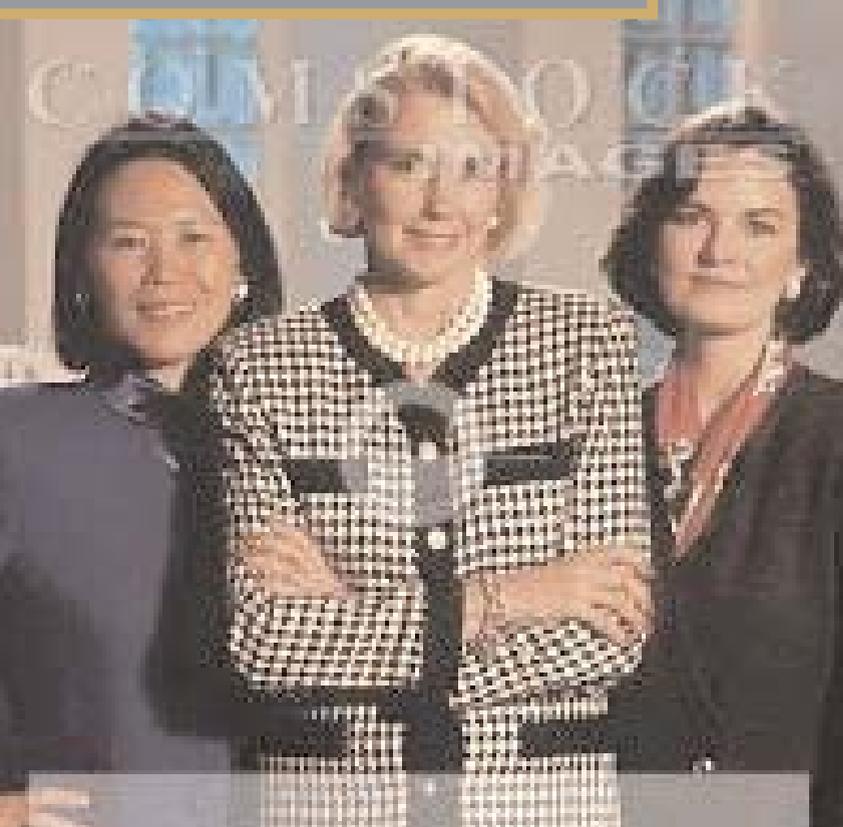
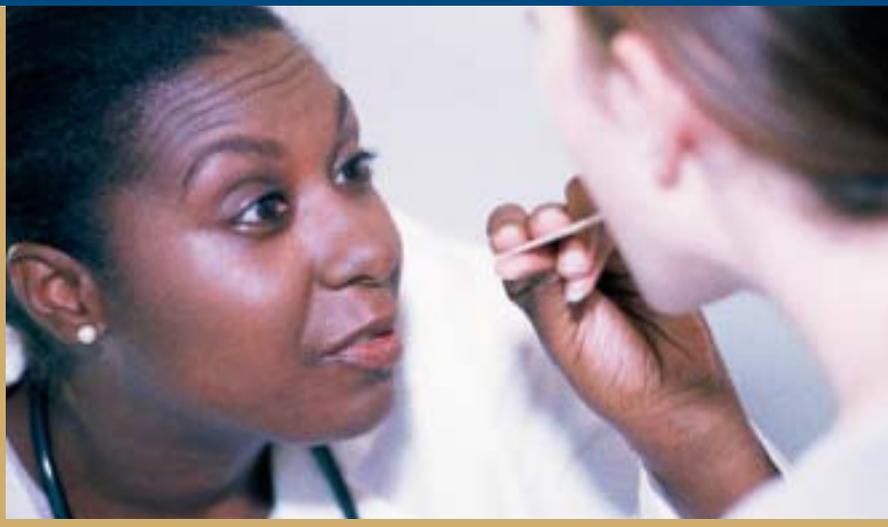
A Report from Congressman **Eliot Engel**

Working for Us

A REPORT FROM CONGRESSMAN **ELIOT ENGEL**

▶ Sponsoring the Renewal of the Violence Against Women Act

▶ Working to Improve Health Care Services



▶ Equal Pay for Equal Work: The Paycheck Fairness Act

▶ Legislation to Require Mammogram Insurance Coverage

▶ Gynecological Cancer Education Act

Congressman Eliot Engel

Working for Us

Equal Pay for Equal Work

It has been forty-two years since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 was passed, but women still do not receive equal pay for equal work. Women working full-time earn 76 cents for every dollar a man earns.

At the current rate, parity will not be achieved until 2042. To bring about equal pay for equal work, Congressman Engel is working to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

This legislation would strengthen and speed enforcement of the Equal Pay Act by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The law would prohibit companies from punishing employees who share salary information. Many companies have a "gag rule" banning discussion of wages among employees, which makes it difficult to discover wage discrimination.

It would require employers to provide equal pay in all of their "establishments," no matter where they are located in the nation; close loopholes to make it easier to take action and prove wage discrimination; and develop voluntary guidelines so that employers can compare wages to see if differences accurately reflect job requirements.

"Equal pay for equal work should not take more generations to become a reality. This legislation will make equal pay for equal work a reality long before 2042," Engel stated.

Requiring Mammograms

Congressman Engel supports legislation to require Medicare to provide coverage for annual mammograms for women over 65.

He also supports legislation to require all insurance companies to cover mammograms for women over the age of 40. Early detection and treatment is critical to combating breast cancer and access to affordable care is essential in the fight against the disease.

Renewal of the Violence Against Women Law

The Violence Against Women law expires in September. Congressman Engel is co-sponsoring the renewal of this important law. The Violence Against Women Act has been critical in protecting women and combating domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Violence Against Women Act was originally passed in 1994.

Co-sponsored by Congressman Engel, it was the first national law to recognize and take action against domestic and sexual violence and put federal funds into programs that assist victims and prevent violence.

The law provides funding for the national domestic violence hotline, battered women's shelters and services, and grants to schools and communities for violence prevention training.

It has saved lives and provided safety for tens of thousands of women and children.

Violence Against Women Act programs have provided increased training for police, prosecutors, and court officials, and greatly improved the response of the criminal justice system to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"Not only must this law be renewed, but we must also end the ongoing under-funding of its programs," Engel stated.

Congressman Engel also pointed out that programs must be expanded to increase prevention services and educational and intervention programs aimed at teenagers and youth.

"Prevention First Act" to Improve Health Care

Congressman Eliot Engel is a co-sponsor of the "Prevention First Act" that would improve health care services to women.

The bipartisan legislation also provides comprehensive family planning services including teen pregnancy prevention, programs to reduce sexually transmitted diseases, and emergency contraceptives for rape victims.

It gives states the power to expand Medicaid family planning services. It requires hospitals receiving federal funds to offer rape victims medically accurate information about emergency contraception. Almost 25,000 rape victims become pregnant each year.

The Act provides \$100 million annually to states for comprehensive sex education programs that include information about abstinence and contraception.

It also increases funding to public and private teenage pregnancy prevention programs.

Withholding information does not help teenagers make responsible choices. It is estimated that there are 900,000 teenage pregnancies and over 3 million teenagers get sexually transmitted diseases each year.

The "Prevention First Act" is being supported by a wide range of groups including the Association of University Women and NOW.

Funds for Gynecological Cancer Education

In March, the Gynecological Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005 was introduced.

The legislation, co-sponsored by Congressman Eliot Engel, creates a national campaign to increase women's and health care professionals' awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. It would also grant federal funds for local demonstration projects.

Gynecological cancers are cervical, endometrial, ovarian, vulvar, and vaginal cancer. Increased awareness, resulting in early detection of these cancers, has saved lives.

Eliot Engel Honored by National Breast Cancer Coalition



National Breast Cancer Coalition recently gave Congressman Engel an award for his 100% voting record. He is pictured with the award at a meeting with members of the Coalition.