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Dear Friends,

It is with a humble but joyous heart that I write you with great news for young women everywhere. As I'm sure you all know, hours ago, the House of Representatives passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This is truly historic health care reform legislation that we have all been waiting for.

My friends, sisters, and fellow survivors -- with passage of this comprehensive health reform package, **the Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act-- or as we all call it, the EARLY Act**, is now the law of the land! Through the hard work of Senator Amy Klobuchar and with help from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, this past December, the EARLY Act was included as Section 10413 of H.R. 3590.

Almost a year ago to the day, we stood together, arm-in-arm, to announce the EARLY Act, which creates a crucial education and outreach campaign highlighting the breast cancer risks facing young women, and empowering them with the tools they need to fight this deadly disease.

Facing the national news media with passion, courage, and conviction, we told American women that the days of "come back in six months" were finished. Confronting the naysayers with confidence, dedication, and yes, even a bit of "chutzpah," we made it crystal clear that the days of leaving young women out of the breast health conversation were also over.

And when the going got tough, supporters of the EARLY Act like you got going -- with policy papers, email blasts, phone-call-a-thons, media appearances, op-eds, blog posts, late night strategy sessions, quick turnarounds, and even testimony before Congress. Because of your efforts, today we can celebrate a future of better education and awareness, earlier detection, and countless lives saved.

It is an honor and privilege to work with such an extraordinary group of women (and men!) like you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this historic day possible. And, I look forward to continuing our work, as we fully implement the EARLY Act, and fight the scourge that is breast cancer.

Sincerely,



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress