

Sheryl Crow Joins National Breast Cancer Coalition to Testify on May 21st about the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (H.R. 1157)

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Washington, D.C.—Singer, songwriter and breast cancer survivor Sheryl Crow joins the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), a grassroots advocacy group of hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals, to testify on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 about the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, (H.R. 1157) a bill that would take us one step forward in finding the causes of breast cancer.

Sheryl Crow and Fran Visco, NBCC's president, are testifying before the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health on Wednesday, May 21st, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building. Dr. Kim Lyerly, Director of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, is also testifying.

"For the past two years Sheryl Crow has worked with us to push Congress to pass this legislation," said Fran Visco, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition. "The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act is vital to finding the cause of breast cancer so we can prevent it. Much of the research done in this country looks for new drugs to treat disease. That is needed. But we need to prevent breast cancer from starting and government funding is required to accomplish that goal. There is little financial incentive to fund this research elsewhere."

Ms. Visco noted that both H.R. 1157 and the Senate companion bill, S. 579 have the overwhelming bipartisan support of 268 cosponsors in the House and 70 cosponsors in the Senate. The House lead sponsors are Reps. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Sue Myrick (R-NC), and Lois Capps (D-CA). Added Ms. Visco: "NBCC advocates from around the country have worked tirelessly for nearly a decade to get this bill enacted. This legislation must finally pass this year. I thank the Subcommittee, and Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Deal, for convening this hearing and await swift passage of the bill by the House and the Senate."

S. 579 was approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in an Executive Session on February 27th and has been offered on the Senate Floor by its chief sponsor, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) on two occasions. He last offered the bill on April 29th, saying: "Too many women and their families have waited too long for Congress to act... It is time to offer more than words of encouragement to those affected by breast cancer...this legislation gives them hope that something can be done to find a cause and hopefully a cure."

The National Breast Cancer Coalition is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through the power of action and advocacy. The Coalition's main goals are to increase federal funding for breast cancer research and collaborate with the scientific community to implement new models of research; improve access to high quality health care and breast cancer clinical trials for all women; and expand the influence of breast cancer advocates wherever breast cancer decisions are made. # # #