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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 1992

**READER'S DIGEST DESCRIBES SANDERS-LEAHY BILL AS**  
**"THE CANCER WEAPON AMERICA NEEDS MOST"**

In a full-page ad in the Business section of today's New York Times, the magazine Reader's Digest today described the Cancer Registries Amendment Act of 1992, written by Rep. Bernard Sanders and introduced by him and Sen. Patrick Leahy, as "the cancer weapon America needs most." This legislation was written as a result of the efforts of thousands of Vermont women, led by breast cancer activists Joanne Rathgeb and Virginia Soffa, who were concerned about the lack of governmental action to prevent cancer.

The ad describes the lead article in the June issue of the magazine, entitled "The Cancer Weapon America Needs Most," and tells how in the article "Dr. John H. Healey, chief of orthopedic surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, explains why Congress must pass The Cancer Registries Amendment Act of 1992."

The Leahy-Sanders bill, S. 2205/H.R. 4206, would establish a national system of statewide cancer registries. These registries collect data, presently lacking in over half the states, which is used to track cancer clusters and identify environmental causes of cancer. The bill would also establish a study of the alarmingly high rates of breast cancer in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states.

In their ad, Reader's Digest said that "... cancer tabulation can be more important in the fight against cancer than performing an intricate operation or an elegant experiment. A network of cancer registries can be our most potent weapon against the disease."

The magazine concluded, "The Cancer Registries Act -- and funding to support it -- is needed now. Please write your senators and your representative to urge creation of uniform registries."

The Cancer Registries bill, which passed the Senate in April as part of the National Institutes of Health Reauthorization bill, was just approved by a House-Senate conference. Floor action on this bill is expected soon, possibly this week.

Responding to the Reader's Digest ad, Sanders said, "I'm extremely gratified to receive this support for our efforts by one of the country's most important magazines. This lead story, and the New York Times ad for it, testifies to the bill's importance in the war against cancer, and should be a great help in getting it passed and funded."

Leahy said, "It was a pleasure working with Representative Sanders on an issue of such importance to Vermonters. I hope the President reads the article and understands the importance of this effort to combat cancer, and does not veto the NIH bill as he has threatened."

The bill will be particularly important to states such as Vermont, which has no cancer registry and also has one of the highest rates of breast cancer deaths.

A copy of the ad is attached.

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