

The Honorable Susan Molinari
U.S. Representative of New York (1990–1997)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Breast Cancer Stamp

Representative Molinari describes how the Breast Cancer Stamp Bill passed with bipartisan support.
Interview recorded January 8, 2016

The Breast Cancer Stamp Bill, which I think is still active, you know, was, was actually a creation of Vic Fazio's—one of his constituents. He came to me in, in the Republican Leadership. I was, he was the sponsor, I was the co-sponsor, and then we flipped. And I had gone to Newt and said, "You know, we really should be supporting this. This is everything that we agree on. It's, it's not mandated, it's voluntary, you know, the stamps could go up to like eight cents more, and it would go to DOD for a lot of the tracking that they did with military personnel and breast cancer." This is like a no—and we reach an audience that we're having a problem with. And so, Newt said, "Okay, fine. Great, great, great, great, but are there changes?"—the Post Office disagreed with us. I said, "Well, the Post Office does want some changes." And he said, "Okay, fine, you go back and tell Vic Fazio that the Molinari–Fazio Bill will be reintroduced." And I was like, "I cannot do that, like that's just awful. It's his bill." And he's like, "Vic is enough of a pol that he'll understand why I need to do this." So, I get him on the House Floor and I said, "Your call. I'm horrified that I even have to have this conversation but Newt says he'll bring it up on suspension," which means you don't have to go through hearings and everything. You just move it along. "We have to make the changes the Post Office recommends and it will be reintroduced the Molinari–Fazio Bill." And I remember at that moment, somebody coming down the steps saying, "Hey, Vic, what's going on?" And he looked and he said, "Just learning to be a member of the minority." Which I thought was so gracious of him. And he said, "Of course, Susan, like, do whatever we need to do to get this moved."