



April 20, 2018

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding the information available on Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) websites regarding breast cancer. We agree with your letter that information about breast cancer is important to provide to the public. It is incorrect, however, to claim that the Department is no longer providing this information to the public.

There are currently multiple websites run by HHS that provide information on breast cancer. The Health Resources and Services Administration¹, HealthCare.gov², and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services³ all have information regarding breast cancer available on their websites. Cancer.gov contains significant amounts of information regarding breast cancer as well and is also one of the top responses on publicly available internet search engines. Finally, the website for the Office of Women's Health (OWH) also contains significant amounts of information on breast cancer.

OWH website pages were removed on December 6, 2017 because the content was not mobile-friendly and very rarely used. For example, if someone were to use the internet search engine Google to search for information on "breast cancer," they would not be directed to the OWH website until the second page of search results. Cancer.gov's information on breast cancer is returned on the first page. Before HHS updates any of the information on the OWH website, we engage in a comprehensive audit and review of other federal consumer health websites to ensure we are not duplicating efforts or presenting redundant information.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have additional questions please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation.

¹ www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines-2016/index.html and www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines/index.html

² www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-women

³ www.cms.gov/cciiio/resources/fact-sheets-and-faqs/womens-preven-02012013.html

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew D. Bassett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew D. Bassett
Assistant Secretary for Legislation