

First Lady Laura Bush in Mexico to Launch Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative

Statement by Ambassador Antonio O. Garza

Mexico City, March 5, 2008 - "Today the White House announced that First Lady Laura Bush will be visiting Mexico next week for the launch of a vitally important health initiative — the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research.

"Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths for women in Mexico, and strikes one in eight women world-wide. With early detection and treatment, we can turn cancer victims into cancer survivors. The U.S.-Mexico Partnership brings American institutions (the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center) together with Mexican institutions (*Fundación CIM*AB*, the *Instituto Nacional de Cancerología*, and the *Instituto Jalisciense de Mujeres*) in a concerted effort to educate and reduce preventable deaths from this serious disease.

"We have been working with our Mexican partners to create an effective program since the First Lady announced, in July 2007, that Mexico would be part of the Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research of the Americas during the White House Conference on the Americas.

"It is a great honor to have Mrs. Bush personally take part in our launch of the Partnership in Mexico."