



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Maida Coleman
5th Senate District

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Senate Unanimously Approves Sen. Coleman's Bill to Create Breast Cancer Awareness Fund

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri Senate today gave final approval to legislation sponsored by Sen. Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis City, which creates the Breast Cancer Awareness Trust Fund. Senate Bill 1105 allows any individual or corporation that is entitled to a tax refund to designate a portion of that refund to the trust fund. Money in the Breast Cancer Trust Fund will be directed to the Friends of Missouri Women's Council to be used solely for breast cancer services.

The Centers for Disease Control reports 186,772 women and 1,815 men were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, the most recent year statistics are available. Nearly 41,000 women and 362 men died from breast cancer that year.

Excluding all cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Missouri and accounts for nearly one-third of all cancers diagnosed in women. According to the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program, an average of 3,951 cases of breast cancer per year were diagnosed among Missouri women between 1996 and 2000. The CDC says Missouri has one of the highest rates of death from breast cancer in the nation.

"This bill creates a check-off on your state income tax return which allows you to donate a portion of your refund for breast cancer services," Sen. Coleman said. "Early detection of breast cancer is the key to surviving the disease. By helping women get mammographies and clinical breast exams, we can ensure they receive treatment at an early stage of the disease."

Senators approved SB 1105 on a 32-0 vote. The measure now moves to the House for consideration.