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October 21, 2009

Breast Cancer Awareness

Joining the Fight Against Cancer

Decades ago, former first lady Betty Ford spoke out about her experience with breast cancer, one of the first women to publically do so. This encouraged health organizations and women to be more vocal about the cancer, leading to, among other things, the establishment of a week-long campaign to increase awareness and early detection of breast cancer in 1985. Now, in 2009, this effort has expanded into a national campaign spanning the entire month of October. The awareness campaign known as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has also expanded in its impact on the public — increasing knowledge and understanding of all those faced with cancer.



Cancer is a disease that does not discriminate, striking all ethnic groups, ages, and genders. The American Cancer Society estimated that there will be 30,090 new cancer cases in our state this year with 3,880 being cases of breast cancer. Breast cancer is the 2nd most common cancer among women in the United States, and it

is the second-leading cause of cancer death in women. In addition, the chance of a woman getting breast cancer sometime during her life is about 1 in 8.

The fight against cancer is fought on many fronts. Prevention awareness programs like those taking place every October are one way that organizations work together to make a difference. The Missouri General Assembly is also bringing awareness to breast cancer. The Show Me Healthy Women Program (<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BreastCervCancer/index.html>), part of a nation-wide effort aimed at reducing the number of breast cancer and cervical cancer cases, provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to age and income eligible women.

This month is dedicated to making sure there is an awareness of breast cancer, not just in Missouri, but throughout the country. I hope you will join me in spending time this month looking at what you can add to the fight against cancer. Whether this contribution be your prayers for those fighting this disease or your time towards a volunteer opportunity with the American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org>), join me this month and throughout the year in putting time and effort towards winning the battle against cancer.



Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at:

jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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