



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Shirley L. Huntley

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

SHIRLEY L. HUNTLEY September 30, 2009

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### For Immediate Release

#### **Senator Shirley L. Huntley Reminds New Yorkers that October is**

#### **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

#### *Early Detection is Key to Breast Cancer Survival*

Recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Senator Huntley (D-Jamaica) reminded New Yorkers how important it is to take the time to schedule their annual mammogram.

With breast cancer rates on the rise in recent decades, it is recommended that a clinical breast exam by a trained medical professional begin at age 20 and be done a minimum of every three years until the age of 40; women over 40 should undergo breast exams every year.

Last year, there were 19,000 African Americans women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, and 6,000 deaths. Those are Third World country numbers. That is unacceptable. We are not surviving it as well as other groups and that has to change."Gabrielle Union Spokesperson for the Susan G. Komen Circle of Promise.

“Breast cancer can be treated effectively when detected early,” said Senator Huntley. “Early detection happens when mammograms are received on an annual basis, especially for women 40 or older. People often believe that breast cancer won’t happen to them, but it can affect anyone, including men.”

According to the American Cancer Society, while breast cancer occurs primarily in women, men are affected too, as a malignant tumor can take hold in any breast tissue.

In conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 16, 2009 is designated as National Mammography Day. Senator Huntley urges women to use this date as a reminder to schedule a mammogram and remind your love ones to do the same.

“It is easy in today’s busy world to forget to schedule regular check-ups. However, we as women must put forth the added effort. Marking this day on your calendar each year in addition, following up with our appointments will help women stay healthy,” Senator Huntley explained.

For more information on breast cancer, including how to conduct self-examinations for women and men, visit <http://www.adelphi.edu/nysbreastcancer/index.html> or call the **Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline at (800) 877-8077** or the **Support Program at (516) 877-4320**. Susan G. Komen for the Cure has also developed an easy to use guide to understanding breast cancer that is available online at

<http://www5.komen.org/understandingbreastcancerguide.html>.