



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael F. Nozzolio

## Senator Nozzolio Highlights Breast Cancer Awareness Month

MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO September 30, 2011

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In recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, State Senator Mike Nozzolio is encouraging women to contact their health care providers to receive regular screenings for breast cancer.

“Breast cancer is more treatable the earlier it is detected,” said Senator Nozzolio. “I hope that this month, women will take the time to discuss screening options with their doctors.”

Each year, 200,000 women and nearly 2,000 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. The disease sadly claims the life of 40,000 Americans annually and is the second leading cause of death amongst women. Regular screenings and early detection greatly increases an individual’s chance of recovery from the disease.

Because of the importance of breast cancer awareness, Senator Nozzolio has supported numerous efforts to help encourage early detection and regular screening. This year, he fought to enact legislation that was adopted in the State Senate (S.1883) that would require insurance companies to cover the cost of supplemental screenings for women as a follow up to a mammogram that reveals dense breast tissue, which is a significant risk factor for breast cancer.

Senator Nozzolio also worked to establish the digital mammography unit at Auburn Memorial Hospital and was instrumental in enacting legislation establishing a means for New York State residents to designate a portion of their State income tax refund for breast cancer screening and research. These efforts have raised over \$5 million dollars.

Senator Nozzolio is encouraging everyone to take advantage of the Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program. The hotline, which can be reached at 1-800-877-8077, provides people with information regarding low-cost and free mammogram services in their community. Callers can also get emotional support from the hotline's specially trained volunteers, most of whom are women who have had breast cancer. For more information on the hotline and support program, visit

[www.adelphi.edu/nysbreastcancer](http://www.adelphi.edu/nysbreastcancer).

“This is an invaluable service that gives critically important information about early detection, mammography, physicians, insurance and local support groups,” said Senator Nozzolio. “We must continue to educate everyone on the importance of early detection and promote breast cancer awareness. As we recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, we must reach out to our loved ones and ensure that everyone remembers to get the screening and care they need.”