



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

## Senator Fuschillo Urges Women to Be Safe and Get Screened as Part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. October 1, 2011

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With national breast cancer awareness month starting today, Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) is reminding women that early detection plays a critical role in overcoming breast cancer.

“Early detection greatly increases the chances of successfully treating breast cancer, which is why it’s so important for women to get screened regularly and practice good health habits. There are a number of programs that give women access to screenings and support for those who are affected by breast cancer, and I encourage women to take advantage of them,” said Senator Fuschillo.

According to the American Cancer Society, the chances of a woman developing breast cancer at some point in her life are approximately 1 in 8. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States.

The American Cancer Society offers the following recommendations for early breast cancer detection:

- Women should have annual mammograms once they reach the age of 40.
- Women in their 20s and 30s should have a clinical breast exam performed by a health professional at least once every three years. Women ages 40 and over should have this exam performed every year.

- Breast self exams are an option for women once they reach their 20s. Women who decide to do breast self exams should consult with their doctor or nurse to make sure they are doing it correctly. Women should see their doctor right away if they detect anything abnormal.

Women who have a family history of breast or other correlating factors that could increase their risk of developing breast cancer should talk to their doctor about when to start screening.

Both Nassau and Suffolk Counties provide mammography screenings for women at various locations throughout Long Island. These screenings are often either no-out-of pocket cost or low cost to patients. Women who want more information about these services can call Senator Fuschillo's office at (516) 882-0630.

There are also local organizations who provide support services to individuals with breast cancer and their families. Families who would like more information about these programs can call 1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition at 516-374-3190 or the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer and Support Program Hotline at 1-800-877-8077.

Senator Fuschillo has been a leader in the fight against breast cancer, regularly sponsoring mammography screening programs and authoring a law which has raised over \$5 million for breast cancer research.

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