



Funding and Reauthorizing Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act

The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA) urges Members of Congress to sustain and expand the public and health professional gynecologic cancer awareness programs created under *Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act* (P.L. 109-475), and housed under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by:

- Providing the program \$10 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill; and
- Cosponsoring and enacting legislation (H.R. 2941/S. 3493) to reauthorize and strengthen the CDC's gynecologic cancer initiatives.

Johanna's Law: Making A Difference Through Increased Awareness

Johanna's Law authorized the CDC to create a gynecologic cancer awareness campaign aimed at educating women and health care providers about the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers. The campaign, *Inside Knowledge: Get the Facts About Gynecologic Cancer*, seeks to raise awareness of the five main types of gynecologic cancer: ovarian, cervical, uterine, vaginal and vulvar. To date, the *Inside Knowledge* campaign has supported many activities, including the development of:

- Cancer-specific fact sheets about gynecologic cancers in both English and Spanish (*completed*);
- An online campaign resource – the *Inside Knowledge* Web (*ongoing*);
- A comprehensive gynecologic cancer brochure (*almost complete*);
- Formative research and concept testing using focus groups to better understand the target audience (*complete*);
- Materials for primary care and health care professionals (*ongoing*); and
- Print and broadcast Public Service Announcements (PSAs) (*in production, available by September 2010*).

H.R. 2941/S. 3493 would: reauthorize the *Inside Knowledge* awareness campaign; create a grant program to support non-profit organizations in their efforts to increase awareness of gynecologic cancer symptoms; and require the CDC to work with national organizations to leverage public-private partnerships and resources to help facilitate complementary efforts and avoid duplication of services and materials.

Ovarian Cancer Has a Devastating Impact on Women, Families and the Nation

Ovarian cancer will kill more than 15,000 women this year, and due to the lack of an effective early detection test, less than 20 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early, when the disease is most treatable. Tragically, the overall death rate from ovarian cancer essentially has remained unchanged over the past forty years. With more than 21,000 new ovarian cancer diagnoses each year, more must be done to identify this deadly disease at its earliest and most treatable stage.

For more information about ovarian cancer and OCNA's public policy program, please contact Cara Tenenbaum, Vice President of Policy and External Affairs (ctenenbaum@ovariancancer.org, 202/331-1332, ext. 300).