

Template Op-Ed

Earlier this month, I was able to participate in the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance's Advocacy Day, where I represented those affected by ovarian cancer on Capitol Hill. Currently, no ovarian cancer screening test exists, but there are numerous ways the federal government can help address the deadliest gynecologic cancer.

In 2010, it is estimated that more than 21,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and almost 14,000 will die of the disease. Experts recommend that women see a gynecologist if they experience any of the often subtle symptoms of ovarian cancer daily for more than a few weeks. Four major symptoms of ovarian cancer include

- bloating
- pelvic or abdominal pain
- difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and
- frequent or urgent need to urinate.

Ovarian cancer symptoms are frequently confused by women and their doctors with other ailments such as menopause, irritable bowel syndrome and even depression.

As a [woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer and/or friend or family member of a woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer], I know first-hand of the need for increased awareness of ovarian cancer. On July 13th, I joined with more than 100 women from across the nation in Washington, D.C. in order to let our elected officials know the critical need for increased investment in spreading ovarian cancer awareness and increased investment in federally-funded ovarian cancer research.

When meeting with the Washington offices of Representative [name of Rep] and Senators [names of Senators], I educated their staff on ovarian cancer and also requested their support for a number of federally-funded ovarian cancer programs. These programs include funding for Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, which educates women and their doctors about ovarian cancer, and funding for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program – the only federal line item funding ovarian cancer research.

I also requested their support in cosponsoring the reauthorization of Johanna's Law (H.R. 2941 and S. 3493) which will keep Johanna's Law running in years to come.

[How you would have benefited from increased awareness ovarian cancer and research breakthroughs.]

For more information about ovarian cancer and what you can do to make sure Congress supports increased ovarian cancer awareness and investment in research, please go to www.ovariancancer.org.

Sincerely,
Writer's Name
<Writer's Signature>
<Name of Writer>
<Writer's Title>
<Writer's Organization >