

**CLOSE THE GAP**  
**Komen Community Challenge**



**Dear Pennsylvania Legislator:**

More than 9,410 Pennsylvania women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 2,180 will die of the disease. The HealthyWoman Program provides free breast and cervical cancer early detection services to uninsured and underinsured women. But, due to lack of funding, the HWP is able to serve only 10 percent of Pennsylvania's eligible women leaving thousands of women without the lifesaving early detection services the program provides.

As an advocate for Pennsylvania women and families affected by breast cancer and a registered voter I strongly urge you to **increase funding to the HealthyWoman Program by \$1 Million**. I also urge you to support expanding coverage of the HealthyWoman Program to include digital mammography.

As an elected official you can make sure that Pennsylvania women have access to the life-saving early detection services they deserve.

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If you list your e-mail address, we'll provide you with updates about the fight against breast cancer and alert you when we need you to contact Congress or other policymakers about important breast cancer issues.

Please send completed petitions to Susan G. Komen Attn: Ginny Thomas, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 250, Dallas TX 75244

# CLOSE THE GAP

## Komen Community Challenge



### Komen Public Policy Recommendations

- Susan G. Komen for the Cure calls on the Pennsylvania legislature to continue its public investment in the HealthyWoman Program by funding the program at **an additional \$1 million in the upcoming 2009 budget**. This additional funding will allow 2,900 more women to receive lifesaving early detection services.
- Coverage of mammogram services should be expanded to **include digital mammography** under the HealthyWoman Program.

### Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania

- This year, approximately 9,410 Pennsylvania women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 2,180 will die of the disease.
- Breast cancer is the leading cancer in women in Pennsylvania and is the second leading cause of overall cancer deaths in Pennsylvania women.
- In the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey only 57% of black women and 62% of white women 40 years and older in Pennsylvania reported having a mammogram in that past year.
- Comparing the most recent national mortality data, for eleven years (1999-2004) the mortality rate for breast cancer in Pennsylvania women has been higher than the national average.
- In 2005 over 29% of breast cancers in Pennsylvania were diagnosed in the late stages of the disease where the five year survival rate is very poor.

### HealthyWoman Program

- The HealthyWoman Program provides free breast and cervical cancer early detection services to low and moderate-income women who are either uninsured or underinsured. HealthyWoman is funded by the Centers for Disease Control through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) and additional state funding.
- A woman must be a resident of Pennsylvania, be between age 40 and 64, with an income at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Women under 40 years who are symptomatic are also eligible for services.
- In Fiscal Year 2007, HealthyWoman screened 12,398 women and detected 1,000 breast cancers. Since 1993, HealthyWoman has screened over 66,000 women for breast and cervical cancer. Screening information can be accessed through the HealthyWoman toll free line at 800-215-7494.
- While over 110,000 women are eligible for the HealthyWoman Program, due to inadequate funding, **the program is only able to screen 9 percent of eligible women in Pennsylvania**. Federal funding currently covers the cost of screening only 5,500 women a year (5-6 percent). The state of Pennsylvania provides a match of \$1.6 million allowing an additional 4,200 of women to be screened a year.

#### Please contact your Pennsylvania Affiliate for more information:

Philadelphia  
215-238-8900

Pittsburgh  
412-342-0500

Northeastern Pennsylvania  
570-969-6072

Twin Tiers  
607-796-2483