



September 2006

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to be a part of the efforts to raise awareness about gynecologic cancer. Although September is designated Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, the efforts to eradicate this cancer should be year round. Nearly 80,000 American women are newly diagnosed with gynecologic cancers each year, with approximately 29,000 deaths annually in the United States. Even though more than 50 percent of women feel that they are at risk for developing a gynecologic cancer during their lifetime, most women are unaware of factors that decrease their risk.

To improve women's health, we need to ensure public awareness of gynecologic cancer prevention, early diagnosis and treatment, and to support research and training related to these diseases.

Diet, education and behaviors play a significant role in the prevention of gynecologic cancer. Genetics are important too. If you know that a woman in your family has suffered from gynecologic cancer, please inform your health care provider. Early diagnosis can save your life.

Regular check-ups, pap smears, and self-examinations can help detect certain types of gynecologic cancers in their early stages. The five-year survival rates for the most common gynecologic cancers are 90 percent when diagnosed early; however survival rates drop to 50 percent or less when these cancers are diagnosed later.

I send my thanks to all of the organizations working to help women achieve better health. I am especially thankful to the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation for caring for women with gynecologic cancers and their efforts to increase public awareness about these diseases.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator