

Draft Language Floor Statement

I rise to express my support for women and families affected by ovarian cancer. As such, I am pledging to take action to turn the great state/commonwealth of _____ TEAL by participating in the United States of Teal campaign. (www.unitedstatesofteal.org).

In 2010, it was estimated that more than 21,000 women were diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 15,000 died of the disease. Because no ovarian cancer screening test exists, organizations such as the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance stress that “until there’s a test, awareness is best.” I commend the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance for its steadfast commitment to make women aware of ovarian cancer symptoms and for its advocacy on behalf of women and families touched by this devastating 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. I ask all of my colleagues to become familiar with these symptoms and to share the information with their friends, family, staff, and constituents. If ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. Currently, only 19 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage. I urge my colleagues to help make women aware of the potential warning signs to prevent future deaths. Experts acknowledge that symptoms can be vague and may be associated with other medical conditions, however, as the saying goes, it is better to be safe than sorry.

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month – an important time during which ovarian cancer organizations, advocates, and others will be helping to raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms. On Friday, September 2nd, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, and other ovarian cancer organizations will recognize “Teal Day,” a day on which everyone is encouraged to wear teal to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms. Teal is the official color for ovarian cancer, like pink is for breast cancer. My staff and I will be wearing teal or teal ribbons to indicate our support of the ovarian cancer community and their efforts, including increasing awareness of the symptoms, boosting federal funding for ovarian cancer awareness, and expanding federal research to improve treatments and support the development of a desperately needed screening test.

I urge my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to join with us on September 2nd in wearing teal to increase public knowledge about this deadly disease.

**We encourage you to edit this text and make it your own.*