



# Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

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## *Legislature Forms Bipartisan Health Caucus House and Senate Democrats select Representative Sharon Cissna to lead efforts*

JUNEAU – Led by the efforts of Representative Sharon Cissna (D-Anchorage), the House and Senate Democrats today formed a Legislative Health Caucus to safeguard the health of Alaskans. Members of the House and Senate majority have been invited to join the caucus. The caucus will be co-chaired by members from the minority and the majority.

Representative Cissna will serve as the founding minority co-chair for the coming year. For past three years, Cissna has hosted a citizen forum in Anchorage, the Affordable Health Workgroup, and coordinated a Health Access Forum for the 2003 Health Summit.

“As we address the state’s fiscal problems, it is imperative that we simultaneously watchdog health concerns,” said Cissna. “Chronic health conditions create mammoth costs to the state, which is why our first meeting will focus on cost containment through prevention.”

The Legislative Health Caucus will hold its first statewide teleconference on controlling costs through managing chronic conditions on February 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Butrovich room in the State Capitol.

The caucus will meet every other Wednesday, and upcoming topics will address Alaskan seniors’ health care issues, workers’ comp insurance, and health care workforce development. Statewide teleconferencing will be available for each meeting, and the public is encouraged to participate in the discussions.

For more information, contact Representative Cissna’s Juneau office at 1-800-922-3875.

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## ***Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2004***

Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Johnny Ellis, Sen. Kim Elton, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gretchen Guess, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, Sen. Donny Olson, Rep. Ethan Berkowitz, Rep. Sharon Cissna, Rep. Harry Crawford, Rep. Eric Croft, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Max Gruenberg, Rep. David Guttenberg, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Rep. Beth Kerttula, Rep. Albert Kookesh, Rep. Carl Moses