



Representative Sharon Cissna

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Cissna to undergo breast cancer surgery

U/Med District Representative calls attention to health care access issue

ANCHORAGE – Following a suspicious mammogram last week and several biopsies, Representative Sharon Cissna (D-Anchorage) has been diagnosed with breast cancer. After working closely with talented medical professionals from the U/Med district, a course of treatment has been determined and Rep. Cissna will undergo surgery on Monday, November 10th.

Rep. Cissna has been a constant advocate for the uninsured in Alaska, working with all sectors of the industry to increase access to health care for Alaskans. “As a small business owner, I spent many years without health insurance and I feel fortunate to have medical insurance at this point in my life. The Legislature has ensured that funding is available to provide coverage to uninsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, but we need to look at the big picture. There are many kinds of cancer affecting all Alaskans and we must make sure all have access to necessary medical treatment.”

Rep. Cissna is planning a quick recovery from surgery and continues her coordination efforts for the 2003 Alaska Health Summit Post-Conference on December 4th. The daylong “Mission Possible” conference will focus improving access to health care in Alaska. “Coordinating this conference is probably the most important thing I will do this year. Access to health care is an enormous challenge and looking at the service I’m getting now – with insurance – strengthens my resolve to find a solution to this crisis.”

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