



2011
**Oregon Women's Health
and Wellness Alliance**



NEWS RELEASE

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**Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance
Announces Legislation for 2011 Session**

(SALEM) - Earlier today the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance, led by Co-Chairs Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland) and Representative Carolyn Tomei, Co-Chair of the House Human Services Committee (D-Milwaukie), announced a package of legislation for the 2011 session that seeks to make a serious impact on the health and well-being of Oregon women and their families.

"It is my hope that with the support and hard work of this alliance we can address some of the important issues facing women today," said Rosenbaum. "We have a good list of priorities that can really improve the lives of Oregon women. I'm especially proud of a bill we're promoting to close a loophole in Oregon's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program so that women who are diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer outside of the Program – say, through their family physician – are still eligible for treatment through the Oregon Health Plan."

In addition to legislation that expands eligibility for lifesaving breast and cervical cancer treatment for low-income women, the Alliance's slate of priorities for the 2011 session includes maternal mental health outreach and education and the preservation of funding for critical services for victims of domestic violence.

"In past sessions, we have achieved contraceptive equity for women, helped breast-feeding mothers and increased job security for victims of domestic violence," said Tomei. "We're going to build on those successes with additional protections for women throughout the state of Oregon."

The legislators were joined today by other elected officials and a wide range of supporters of the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness. Other speakers included Christine McDonald, Executive Director of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and Portland resident Anastacia Papadopoulous, who shared her personal experience with domestic violence and the resources offered by the Portland Women's Crisis Line.

Founded in 1993, OWHWA is a bipartisan group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well being of women.

For a full list of the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance's 2011 Legislative Agenda please visit www.owhwa.org.

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