

Dear Friend,

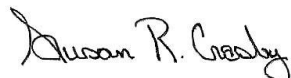
Women In Government strives to educate policymakers nationwide about this country's single greatest cause of death – heart disease (CVD). In 2002, more than one-third of all deaths in the United States were linked to CVD. The disease is especially ruthless among women. The American Heart Association has reported that each minute, one woman dies from CVD, but only 13 percent of women believe this disease is their greatest health risk. You can play a crucial role in changing the way people protect themselves against this silent killer.

In 2007, Women In Government launched the Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center that supports state legislative and outreach activity and serves as a clearinghouse of information and educational materials on Medicare preventive services for state policymakers. We also convened the first meeting of the Women & Heart Disease Task Force of women state legislators from across the country. The Task Force mission is to reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease on women and their families through promoting awareness, implementing prevention and early intervention strategies based on established medical guidelines, facilitating partnerships, sharing best practices and developing a state action plan. The Task Force issued state policy recommendations on the prevention of CVD to help guide effective efforts on this important issue.

As Women In Government has examined best practices to combat this chronic illness, we have gathered illuminating reports from authorities on preventive care, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Cholesterol Education Program, and the Milken Institute. The resounding messages in these reports maintain that prevention is the best way to turn the tide against CVD and co-morbidities, which could ultimately reverse state's rapidly escalating healthcare costs. We have produced this Legislative Toolkit with extensive background materials, policy recommendations and sample legislation to assist you in your efforts to address this public policy topic.

The Women In Government Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center is eager to share these beneficial resources with you so that you learn more about how to improve the quality of life for your loved ones and constituents. Please feel free to contact us by e-mail at [medicare@womeningovernment.org](mailto:medicare@womeningovernment.org), by phone at 1-888-333-0164, or visiting our website at [www.womeningovernment.org/medicare](http://www.womeningovernment.org/medicare) for more information. We look forward to working with you and supporting your many efforts to reduce the burden of CVD in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan R. Crosby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan R. Crosby  
President