



Foreword

Progress and Partnership on the Road to Cervical Cancer Elimination



Susan R. Crosby
President

Since the launch of our first report, Women In Government has realized the importance of collaboration among all interested parties—from state legislators, to public health officials, to the medical community—in the effort to prevent cervical cancer. Collaboration and partnership serve as the foundation of our “Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign.” Women In Government actively brings stakeholders together on this issue through the Campaign and the Annual Cervical Cancer & HPV Task Force and Summit. We believe that by working together with common goals and vision, we can eliminate this deadly disease.

Women In Government’s Campaign is designed to educate state legislators about cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV)—the cause of cervical cancer—and to advocate for education and access to the most advanced and appropriate screening and preventive technologies available. The Campaign has achieved tremendous success in its three-year history, with 45 states having introduced legislative initiatives around cervical cancer prevention and 40 states having enacted these measures as of November 1, 2006. Legislative action across the country has included the establishment of statewide accountable entities, such as task forces, public awareness educational campaigns, and insurance reimbursement for advanced screening technologies, such as the HPV test. In 2005, we released the first cervical cancer and HPV state report in an effort to build upon momentum and establish a baseline from which stakeholders can measure their progress in preventing this disease. In 2006, we issued a second report, which demonstrated great success in just one short year, as well as identified further work that needed to be done on this issue. To evaluate states’ achievements nationwide, identify gaps in cervical cancer prevention policy and demonstrate examples of collaboration, we now present *Partnering for Progress 2007: The “State” of Cervical Cancer Prevention in America*.

This year’s report shows how states are working with stakeholders in their efforts to prevent cervical cancer and tracks each state’s performance since we released our inaugural report two years ago. Overall, we found that the states have made great strides toward cervical cancer prevention. We applaud Minnesota on becoming the first state to receive a grade of “Excellent.” Women In Government challenges other states to follow Minnesota’s lead in making cervical cancer prevention a top priority.

Looking to the future, we anticipate greater commitment and even greater success in 2007 with our mission to eliminate cervical cancer. Collaboration with all stakeholders will ensure success for this historic women’s health effort—to make cervical cancer the first victory in the war on cancer. We hope that you will accept the challenge to eliminate cervical cancer and partner with stakeholders in your community against this preventable disease.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Crosby

President
Women In Government