

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

# Scott Press Release

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## MICHIGAN RECEIVES 'VERY GOOD' RATING ON CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION

LANSING, Michigan - Michigan received a 'very good' rating in its battle against cervical cancer, improving its 2008 rating of 'good' in an national study, State Senator Martha G. Scott announced today.

"Cervical cancer is one of the only cancers that is nearly entirely preventable with the right knowledge and preventative steps," Senator Scott said. "I am heartened to see Michigan moving in the right direction in the battle against this deadly disease."

Michigan received 16 out of 22 points, compared to 14 out of 22 points in 2008, in "A Roadmap for Success: The State of Cervical Cancer Prevention in America 2009" report by Women in Government, a non-profit, bi-partisan organization representing women state legislators. In Michigan, the incidence of cervical cancer decreased from 7.6 per 100,000 to 6.8 per 100,000, with the mortality rate (2.1 per 100,000) and the screening rate (85.8 percent) staying about the same.

Michigan gained an additional point for the creation of Amanda's Fund, an income tax return check-off with monies dedicated to breast and cervical cancer screening, care and treatment. The check-off went into effect in 2008.

Nationwide, the report showed that states are making progress in the fight against cervical cancer, although states still need to work to make cervical cancer prevention - through screenings and vaccinations - available to uninsured and underinsured women.

More than half of all states have established statewide Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Forces to coordinate prevention efforts. More than a quarter of states have enacted or introduced HPV (a virus shown to cause cervical cancer) and cervical cancer education programs, and a dozen have moved to require coverage of HPV testing. Eighteen states have worked to require that insurers pay for the HPV vaccine.

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"Our new report shows that great progress is being made in the fight against cervical cancer," said Mary Brooks Beatty, President of Women in Government. "However, this

disease is almost completely preventable and we need to ensure that all women have access to the most appropriate cervical cancer prevention technologies, that socioeconomic status is not a barrier to receiving care, and that women around the world benefit from the tools that have helped make a difference in the battle against cervical cancer in the United States.”

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide. In the U.S., the American Cancer Society estimates that 11,070 women will have been diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3,870 women will have died of the disease in 2008. Cervical cancer is caused by high-risk types of HPV (human papillomavirus). HPV is a very common sexually transmitted infection that three of four adults will have at some time in their lives. Most of these infections go away on their own without treatment. Infections that do not go away on their own can lead to cervical cancer.

A Pap test is the traditional method used for cervical cancer screening. An HPV test identifies women who are infected with high-risk types of HPV that could potentially lead to cervical cancer. Clinical studies suggest that screening with both a Pap test and an HPV test offers women aged 30 and older the best protection against cervical cancer. An HPV vaccine is now FDA-approved for girls and young women ages 9-26. It has been shown to be 100 percent effective in women not previously infected at preventing infection with the two types of HPV that cause approximately 70 percent of all cervical cancers. HPV vaccination does not protect against all the HPV types that can cause cervical cancer, meaning that women who have been vaccinated still need to be screened to protect against the HPV types that are not covered by the vaccine.

Women in Government is a national non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators providing leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues. For more information, visit [www.womeningovernment.org](http://www.womeningovernment.org).

To access a copy of “A Roadmap for Success: The State of Cervical Cancer Prevention in America 2009”, please visit [www.womeningovernment.org/prevention/state\\_report/2009](http://www.womeningovernment.org/prevention/state_report/2009).

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*Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.*