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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

September 17, 2008

Spend an Hour Learning How to Stay Cancer-Free

One out of 18 people in this country will develop colorectal cancer in their lifetime.

Dear Colleague,

As a long-time advocate for early prevention of all forms of disease, I would like to make you aware of an important educational briefing being hosted by the Senate Office of Education and Training. This wellness event will provide Senate staff the opportunity to learn more about preventing colon cancer and to ask questions about this deadly disease. This one-hour event will be held on Monday, September 22nd from 12:00pm to 1:00pm in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The statistics on colon cancer are staggering. Excluding skin cancer, colorectal cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer in the United States and Canada. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates there were 153,760 new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed in the U.S. in 2007. That means a person in the U.S. was diagnosed with colorectal cancer every 4 minutes. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the U.S. and Canada (after lung cancer). ACS estimated 52,180 people died from colorectal cancer last year resulting in one person in the United States dying of colorectal cancer every 9.3 minutes.

Now for the good news. With regular screening, colorectal cancer can be found early when treatment is most effective. In many cases, screening can prevent colorectal cancer and if cancer is present, earlier detection means a chance at a longer life – generally, five-year survival rates are lower the further advanced the disease is at detection. **Over 90% of those diagnosed when the cancer is found at a local stage survive more than five years.**

This briefing will tackle the facts of this deadly disease and provide useful information on how to recognize early warning signs and get screened. It will include an interactive presentation by a leading local colorectal surgeon followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Additionally, a patient advocate will be on hand to share their personal story and speak one-on-one with those who are interested.

I hope you will attend this important event.

Sincerely,


Michael Enzi
United States Senator