

March 14, 2007

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Governor Signing of the First Ever Wyoming Cancer Control Act

Governor Dave Freudenthal will sign Senate File 131 into state law Thursday March 15, 2007 at the Senior Center, 1841 E 4th St. in Casper, Wyoming. The signing of the Wyoming Cancer Control Act lays the foundation for reducing cancer, improving health for all Wyoming people, and providing access to necessary support for cancer patients, survivors, families, and caregivers.

The Wyoming Cancer Control Act provides \$1.4 million for the development and implementation of the Wyoming Colorectal Cancer Early Detection Program, which will allow Wyoming men and women who are ages 50 and over (and at or below 250% of the federal poverty level) to receive reimbursement for a colonoscopy to screen for colorectal cancer. This act also provides \$250,000 for enhancement of the Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, including a Native Sisters Pilot Program to enhance breast cancer screening on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Wyoming Cancer Control Act also authorizes the Wyoming Department of Health to establish an acute and chronic pain management advisory committee consisting of the Board of Medicine, Board of Nursing, and the Board of Pharmacy, however there is no funding for this project at this time.

In October 2005, the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium unveiled the state's first comprehensive plan to reduce cancer in the state. Funding of the various aspects of the Wyoming Cancer Control Plan will begin gradually as capacity building and effective programs can be demonstrated.

"I believe that this legislation is a groundbreaking effort signifying Wyoming's serious intent to control cancer," said Lisa Eades, President Jason's Friends Foundation and Co-Chair of the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium. "It is estimated that in Wyoming 2,340 new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 2007. In addition, 980 Wyomingites will die from cancer in 2007 (American Cancer Society). 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime (NCI). The Wyoming Cancer Control Act is an enormous step in Wyoming's fight against cancer".

For more information about this newly adopted legislation, or to join Wyoming's efforts to reduce cancer, please contact Lisa Eades, WCCCC Co-Chairperson, at (307)235-3421.