

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senate Rules Committee

Senator Randy Phillips, Chair

### SCR 33 – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

#### Sponsor Statement

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[Senate Concurrent Resolution 33](#) will designate September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Alaska. This resolution encourages health care organizations, health care providers, municipalities, private agencies, and individuals to participate in awareness activities throughout the month.

The Alaska Chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, founded by Kim Sexton and Deb Donoho in August 2000, respectfully requests this resolution be passed as a commitment to the health of the women of Alaska. The Alaska Chapter hopes to raise awareness about the silent and often misdiagnosed warning signs of ovarian cancer. They are specifically concerned that women may not be aware that:

- In the United States, more women die of ovarian cancer each year than of cervical and endometrial cancers combined.
- The American Cancer Society reports that ovarian cancer accounts for four percent of all cancers among women and ranks fifth as a cause of death.
- The American Cancer Society predicts that approximately 23,000 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed yearly with 13,000 deaths annually.
- Early detection is key to survival; if the cancer is diagnosed while confined to the ovary the five-year survival rate reaches 93% on average.
- The incidence of advanced stage ovarian cancer is increasing due to the vague symptoms and the lack of a screening test for early detection.

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