

## NEWS ARCHIVE

### Corzine joins breast cancer survivors at W'boro event

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WILLINGBORO - When Clementine Carroll found a lump in her breast 24 years ago, she had to convince her insurance company to pay for the mammogram.

Today, the Willingboro resident and breast cancer survivor says it's a little easier to receive funding for breast cancer treatment and prevention.

"Depending on what HMO you have, they'll still pay for the mammogram, and they'll send a letter to remind you to get one, which you can use that letter as a referral," Carroll said. "That shows you the improvements there have been since then."

But Carroll said the government still needs to do more to support breast cancer health and awareness, and U.S. Senator Jon Corzine, D-N.J., says he feels the same way.

Corzine spoke about the disease at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County yesterday during an appearance that coincided with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Carroll was among the audience of 30 people attending the senator's speech.

Corzine said he supported legislation that would increase the Medicare reimbursement rate for mammograms.

"I believe in (mammograms)," he said. "We need to make sure it's available, but reimbursement rates have gone down so it's actually becoming less available."

Corzine also said he supported legislation that would provide Medicare coverage for anti-cancer drugs such as tamoxifen and increased federal funding for breast cancer research.

Marge Reed, one of the five breast cancer survivors in the audience, attested to the benefits of such legislation. The Haddonfield resident has been diagnosed with breast cancer three times since 1983, and the current prescription drugs she's taking were developed through research five years ago.

"The most important thing is the research funding," Reed said. "We need to stay one step ahead of breast cancer."

Corzine has a history of supporting funding for breast cancer research, treatment and prevention. He received a 100 percent rating earlier this year on the National Breast Cancer Coalition's annual scorecard for members of Congress.

"It's something I feel just passionate about," he said. "I've never seen a group of human beings care more, fight more or have more drive than women who are fighting breast cancer."

The American Cancer Society estimated there will be 205,000 new cases of breast cancer this year, and 6,900 of those will be in New Jersey.

New Jersey has the highest breast cancer death rate among any state, according to the American Cancer Society.

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