

# *News from the Wyoming Department of Health*

Tuesday, August 29, 2006

## **Governor Declares Patient Advocate Day**

CHEYENNE - Governor Dave Freudenthal is signing a proclamation tomorrow declaring August 30 (Wednesday) as "Wyoming Patient Advocate Day."

"Recognizing Patient Advocate Day can show Wyoming's support for patients when it comes to issues such as healthcare access, retrieving accurate healthcare information and guidance in navigating the healthcare system," Freudenthal said.

The Wyoming Department of Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, in conjunction with the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium, supports improving healthcare access and reducing health-related disparities for chronic diseases within the state.

"It is a great feeling to be a part of a state where patient advocacy is recognized as important. I am proud to be a part of the cancer control consortium," says Pam Hall, radiation oncology nurse at Welch Cancer Center in Sheridan and a cancer consortium member.

Hall and cancer advocate Anne Larsen of Laramie promoted the initiative with the governor last month after attending a National Patient Advocate Foundation meeting in Washington, D.C.

Kimberly Rogers, Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program manager, said "Wyoming's cancer control plan outlines the importance of patient advocates, as well as providing education to all residents about patients' rights and informed decision-making."

"Those in Wyoming who are fighting chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, and asthma, need to begin looking at the big healthcare picture in Wyoming and collaborate to reduce common risk factors," Rogers continued

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