



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BISHOP FORMS BREAST CANCER ADVISORY BOARD**

**Coram, NY:** Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced he is forming a Breast Cancer Advisory Board to help craft policy to fight breast cancer and help survivors. Bishop's group will have representatives of the various parts of the community fighting breast cancer, ranging from advocates, researchers, survivors and clinicians from throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.

Bishop, who will attend this Saturday's Victory Day at John T. Mather Hospital, reflected on his own family's experience with breast cancer. Bishop's mother Catherine is a breast cancer survivor and his sister-in-law Abby Irwin is currently battling the disease.

"Like all too many Long Islanders, breast cancer has attacked my family," Bishop said. "And while it is a devastating disease, there is inspiration in the thousands of stories from survivors living in our communities."

"What is important is that we devote the necessary resources to fighting the disease and helping families so they have support, and don't have six-figure medical debts," Bishop added. "This must not only be a rhetorical battle, we need financial resources too."

Bishop announced the initial members of his advisory board will include: Gail Frankel, Advocate, National Breast Cancer Coalition and the Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline; Martha Rogers, Board Member, South Fork Breast Health Coalition; Susan Roden, Board Member, South Fork Breast Health Coalition; Lynette Leepack, Nurse Practitioner and Administrator, Carol Baldwin Breast Care Center at Stony Brook University Hospital; Sara Anker, Co-Chairperson, Community Health and Environment Coalition; Normadeane Armstrong, Co-Chairperson, Community Health and Environment Coalition; Hillary Rutter, Director of the New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program; Lisa Becker, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; and others.

"I'm pleased to be invited to join this advisory board," Anker said. "I'm also pleased to know that Congressman Bishop is proactive in seeking the causes of breast cancer and providing for the health needs of women in our community."

Bishop will be announcing other members in upcoming weeks. The board will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss how to address recent developments as well as the needs of the community.

Bishop said one issue he is particularly interested in is expanding research into cancer clusters. Recently, he worked with the Community Health and Environment Coalition and sent a letter to State Health Commissioner Dr. Antonia Novello to investigate possible causes of a local cluster. According to a State Department of Health report, the communities in the cluster— Coram, East Setauket, Miller Place, Mt. Sinai, Port Jefferson Station, Port Jefferson and Sound Beach—have "greater than 50% above expected breast cancer incidence."

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