Dear Friend:

Few things in life are more frightening, confusing or devastating than a diagnosis of cancer. The word alone is enough to send shivers down the spine of most people, especially when it strikes close to home, either in yourself or a loved one. Yet the outlook for people with cancer is often better than ever before.

In this brochure, I provide important information about prostate cancer, including symptoms, screening tests and treatment, along with pertinent websites and phone numbers where you can gather additional reference material as well.

As is often the case with chronic illness, education is the key to early detection and the fight against cancer. Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in American men. Modern methods of detection and treatment mean that many prostate cancers are now found earlier and can be treated more effectively. According to the most recent data, for all men with prostate cancer, the relative 5-year survival rate is nearly 100 percent.

I hope you find this information helpful. As always, if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District
Treatment
The treatment you choose should take into account several different factors. For a complete list and more information regarding treatment options, please visit the American Cancer Society online at www.cancer.org. Listed below are just a few of the options available; it is important you discuss with your health care professional which is best for you.

Watchful waiting: may be advised for those whose early stage prostate cancer appears to be growing slowly. It may also be advised when, because of age or health, the possible side effects of treatment may outweigh the benefits.

Surgery

Radiation therapy:
uses high-energy rays or particles to kill cancer cells.

Hormonal therapy:
is used to reduce levels of the male hormones, androgens, to try and slow the growth of cancer cells.

Prognosis
Over the last 50 years, survival rates for prostate cancer have increased, making the outlook positive. It is important to get checked annually if you are a male age 50 or older (or sooner if you are deemed at risk). If you have loved ones who may be at risk, please share this information with them. Early detection could add years to your life or to the lives of your family members and friends.

For More Information
American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org or 1-800-ACS-2345
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate or 800-CDC-INFO
New York State Health Department:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/cancer/prostate/