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BREAST CANCER NETWORK OF STRENGTH (FORMERLY KNOWN AS Y-ME) COMMENDS THE EARLY ACT

Legislation Reinforces Importance of Network of Strength's "Just for Teens" Program

Chicago, May 27, 2009— Breast Cancer Network of Strength has announced its support for the recently introduced Senate Bill 994, the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009. In April, the House of Representatives introduced its version of the bill, H.R. 1740, which now has more than 300 co-sponsors.

“The EARLY Act will amplify our efforts to educate younger, healthy women about their breast health and breast cancer risk through our ‘Just for Teens’ program,” said Margaret C. Kirk, Network of Strength president and CEO.

Since 1990, more than 200,000 teen girls have participated in Breast Cancer Network of Strength’s “Just for Teens” program, designed to educate young women about the importance of breast health and awareness.

The EARLY Act specifically aims to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, including the particular risks faced by certain racial, ethnic, and cultural groups; and focuses on awareness of risk factors of breast cancer among young women and achieving early detection of breast cancer among young women through community-centered informational forums, public service advertisements, and media campaigns.

“The idea of waiting until one is 40 to think about breast cancer can be misguided because each year as many as 28,000 women under the age of 45 are diagnosed with the disease,” added Kirk.

To read more about the bill visit <http://main.networkofstrength.org/advocacypriorities>

About Breast Cancer Network of Strength

Breast Cancer Network of Strength® (formerly known as Y-ME) has a mission to ensure, through information, empowerment and peer support, that no one faces breast cancer alone.

In addition to other programs, Breast Cancer Network of Strength provides immediate emotional relief to anyone affected by breast cancer through the YourShoes™ 24/7 breast cancer support center, which includes the country’s only toll-free hotline staffed exclusively by breast cancer survivors.

For more information about Breast Cancer Network of Strength, visit www.networkofstrength.org. Peer counselors can be contacted at 1-800-221-2141, with interpreters available in more than 150 languages.