The Impact:
It has taken 15 years to build an infrastructure that includes public health, community health centers, hospitals, and private health care providers who can refer women who have no other resources to pay for early detection and to treat cancer or pre-cancer at the earliest, most treatable stages. **If federal funds are eliminated, there are no resources in the rural and frontier states to serve disparate populations.** Budget cuts for cancer early detection are costly. Beyond the lives being saved and the economic and emotional toll on families, early detection programs avert late stage treatments which are very costly and ineffective.

Many people assume that “everyone will be insured” with healthcare reform - but there will be significant gaps. People with mental health issues, physical limitations, and those from rural areas will not have the program to navigate through complex medical systems, especially when they face the frightening prospect of cancer. Rural and frontier states already see patients needing to travel great distances for care, especially for diagnostic work-up or cancer treatment. Public health programs that pay a portion of the costs for disparate populations help to keep facilities open to serve any patients in sparsely populated areas. The cost of gas, and the reality of no public transportation, further deters patients with no resources from being screened to find cancer at an early, more treatable stage.
In Idaho, if funds are eliminated:

- Five people at the state level could lose their jobs;
- 40 people at the local level could lose funding for part of their job - which could reduce their hours and eliminate their insurance coverage;
- A number of other part-time workers at the local level could be laid off;
- A number of health care providers who accept reduced payment for patient services could be forced to no longer accept patients covered by public programs; and,
- A number of healthcare providers will have to close their private businesses that care for all patients - even if there are no other community clinics available within a 2-3 hour drive.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**

Investing in prevention is investing in a healthier America! Reducing or eliminating funding for prevention and health promotion programs will weaken the core public health infrastructure, the workforce, and our capacity to improve health in our communities.