

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 125 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, WHEELAND, V. BROWN, BENNINGHOFF,
SCHWEYER, YOUNGBLOOD, HARHART, PICKETT, HARKINS, KOTIK,
BAKER, DEAN, BISHOP, KIM, J. HARRIS, FARINA, COHEN, VEREB,
LONGIETTI, CAUSER, MILLARD, DAVIS, KILLION, KIRKLAND, DUSH,
SONNEY, RAVENSTAHL, FREEMAN, DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, BROWNLEE,
GINGRICH, SCHLOSSBERG, MATZIE, THOMAS, HELM, CALTAGIRONE,
HENNESSEY, KINSEY, ACOSTA, ROZZI, McNEILL, FRANKEL, ROSS,
PETRI, DeLUCA, KAUFFMAN, MARSICO, GOODMAN, KAVULICH,
C. PARKER, WATSON, O'NEILL, D. COSTA, MAJOR, MURT, MAHONEY,
GILLEN, WARD AND READSHAW, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2015 as "National Colorectal
2 Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Prevent Cancer Foundation,
4 colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death
5 among men and women in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, In its Cancer Facts & Figures 2014 report, the
7 American Cancer Society estimated that 136,830 new cases of
8 colorectal cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 2014,
9 with the diagnoses affecting 6,790 Pennsylvanians; and

10 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimated that 50,310
11 deaths occurred from colorectal cancer in 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer and polyps in the beginning stages
13 do not always cause symptoms, which may include rectal bleeding,

1 stomach pain, aches, cramps or unexplained weight loss; and

2 WHEREAS, Mortality rates for colorectal cancer have decreased
3 over the past two decades in both men and women due to declining
4 incidence rates and improvements in early detection and
5 treatment; and

6 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is highly preventable with regular
7 screenings beginning at 50 years of age to detect and remove
8 precancerous polyps; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Office of Disease Prevention and
10 Health Promotion of the United States Department of Health and
11 Human Services, if everyone 50 years of age or older would have
12 regular colorectal cancer screening tests, at least 6 out of 10
13 colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented each year with early
14 detection and treatment, including the removal of polyps, which
15 are grape-like growths on the lining of the colon and rectum,
16 before they become cancerous; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 2000, March has been designated as "National
18 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" by the Prevent Cancer
19 Foundation, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy,
20 the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and the Foundation for
21 Digestive Health and Nutrition; and

22 WHEREAS, "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"
23 generates widespread awareness about colorectal cancer and
24 encourages people to learn more about disease prevention through
25 maintaining a healthy lifestyle and diet; and

26 WHEREAS, Routine screenings promote education of the public
27 on the methods of prevention and early detection; and

28 WHEREAS, Regular screening tests detect colon polyps before
29 they become cancerous, save lives and reduce mortality by both
30 decreasing incidents and detecting a higher proportion of cancer

1 at early, more treatable stages; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
3 month of March 2015 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness
4 Month" in Pennsylvania and urge its residents to follow these
5 actions to prevent colorectal cancer by:

6 (1) Being physically active for at least 30 minutes a
7 day, at least five days a week.

8 (2) Maintaining a healthy weight.

9 (3) Quitting smoking.

10 (4) Having not more than one drink a day for women and
11 two drinks a day for men.

12 (5) Eating fruits, vegetables and whole grains to remain
13 healthy and fit.

14 (6) Reducing the intake of red meat and cutting out
15 processed meat.

16 (7) Beginning regular screenings at 50 years of age and
17 earlier for those at higher risk, which is especially
18 important when a person has no symptoms.

19 (8) Talking to a doctor about tests for cancer, such as
20 colonoscopy, virtual colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy,
21 double-contrast barium enema, stool occult blood test, stool
22 immunochemical test and stool DNA test;

23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge its members,
25 the Department of Health and health care professionals across
26 this Commonwealth to recognize "National Colorectal Cancer
27 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness about the
28 disease and how to prevent it through a healthy lifestyle and
29 proper screenings.