

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 709 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, COHEN, THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, WATSON, BENNINGHOFF, KOTIK, SCHLEGEL CULVER, WARD, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, ADOLPH, O'BRIEN, VEREB, KAVULICH, DiGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, TOOHL, MARSICO, YOUNGBLOOD, BAKER, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI, DUSH, SONNEY, GODSHALL, WHEELAND, ROZZI, KINSEY, MILLARD, SCHWEYER, KILLION, McNEILL, R. BROWN, PHILLIPS-HILL, MURT, BOBACK, HARHART, GOODMAN, ROSS, READSHAW, GROVE, PETRI, MILNE, MATZIE, PAYNE, NEILSON, MAJOR, MAHONEY, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, SCHLOSSBERG, FARINA, BULLOCK, GILLEN, EVERETT, PICKETT, HEFFLEY AND GINGRICH, MARCH 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 10, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2016 as "National Colorectal  
2 Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that starts in  
4 the colon or rectum, both of which are parts of the large  
5 intestine and the body's digestive system; and

6 WHEREAS, During digestion the colon absorbs water and  
7 nutrients from food and stores waste matter, which moves to the  
8 rectum; and

9 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer often begins as a growth called a  
10 polyp, which may form on the inner wall of the colon or rectum;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to colorectal polyps, risk factors of  
13 colorectal cancer include increasing age, family history,

1 certain genetic mutations, excessive alcohol use, obesity,  
2 physical inactivity, cigarette smoking and history of  
3 inflammatory bowel disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Symptoms of developing colorectal cancer include  
5 changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, stomach pains or  
6 cramps, weakness, unexplained weight loss and low red blood cell  
7 count; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of  
9 cancer-related mortality in the United States, accounting for an  
10 estimated 49,700 deaths in 2015; and

11 WHEREAS, Unprecedented progress has been made in the last  
12 decade in reducing colorectal cancer incidence and death rates  
13 largely due to prevention and early detection through screening;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Up to 60% of deaths from colorectal cancer could be  
16 prevented if everyone 50 years of age or older were screened  
17 regularly and appropriately treated; and

18 WHEREAS, Since 2000, March has been celebrated as "National  
19 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" by advocacy groups, public  
20 officials, health care providers and patients; and

21 WHEREAS, During this month, participants generate widespread  
22 awareness about colorectal cancer and encourage the public to  
23 learn more about disease prevention, early detection and  
24 maintaining a healthy lifestyle and diet; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join advocates  
26 nationwide in recognizing the month of March 2016 as "National  
27 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" and urge its residents to  
28 follow preventative measures such as:

- 29 (1) Engaging in physical activity for at least 30  
30 minutes a day, at least five days a week.

- 1           (2) Maintaining a healthy weight.
- 2           (3) Quitting smoking.
- 3           (4) Limiting alcohol intake.
- 4           (5) Eating healthy fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- 5           (6) Reducing the intake of red meat and cutting out
- 6 processed meat.
- 7           (7) Beginning regular screenings at 50 years of age and
- 8 earlier for those individuals at higher risk.
- 9           (8) Consulting with a doctor about tests for detecting
- 10 cancer and pre-cancer, such as a colonoscopy, virtual
- 11 colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, double-contrast barium
- 12 enema, stool occult blood test, stool immunochemical test and
- 13 stool DNA test; and be it further
- 14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge its members,
- 15 the Department of Health and health care professionals across
- 16 this Commonwealth to recognize "National Colorectal Cancer
- 17 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness about the
- 18 disease and how to prevent it through a healthy lifestyle and
- 19 proper screenings.