
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 644 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, READSHAW, BAKER, DAVIS, DeLUCA, MATZIE,
TOOHIL, MURT, MUSTIO, CALTAGIRONE, DEAN, RYAN, HILL-EVANS,
KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, R. BROWN, DiGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI,
FLYNN, DRISCOLL, YOUNGBLOOD, BIZZARRO, J. McNEILL, BOBACK,
NEILSON, HENNESSEY, COX, PASHINSKI, ORTITAY, MILLARD,
MEHAFFIE, WARD, RABB, WARREN, KINSEY AND SCHWEYER,
JANUARY 22, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 22, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2018 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,
14 certain genetic mutations, excessive alcohol use, obesity,
15 physical inactivity, cigarette smoking and history of

1 inflammatory bowel disease; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of
7 cancer-related mortality in the United States, accounting for an
8 expected 50,630 deaths in 2018; and

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
24 month of March 2018 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness
25 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join advocates
27 nationwide in urging the residents of this Commonwealth 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 precancer, 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;
- 14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge its members,
16 the Department of Health and health care professionals across
17 this Commonwealth to recognize "National Colorectal Cancer
18 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness about the
19 disease and how to prevent it through a healthy lifestyle and
20 proper screenings.