

1 HJR71
2 182637-2
3 By Representative Johnson (R)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-FEB-17

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 RECOGNIZING MARCH 2017 AS COLORECTAL CANCER
4 AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA.

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6 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common
7 cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama; and

8 WHEREAS, in the United States, the lifetime risk of
9 being diagnosed with cancer of the colon or rectum is 5.5
10 percent for men and 5.1 percent for women; and

11 WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have
12 colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early
13 stages versus only 10 percent survival rate when colorectal
14 cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

15 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,210
16 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this
17 year and 940 people will die from the disease; and

18 WHEREAS, deaths from colorectal cancer occur
19 disproportionately among those who are underserved or
20 underinsured; and

21 WHEREAS, when detected early, the five-year survival
22 rate for colon cancer is 90 percent; however, only 39 percent
23 of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due
24 to low rates of screening; and

1 WHEREAS, five-year survival rates decline
2 dramatically when colorectal cancer is diagnosed in later
3 stages; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health
5 administers the FITWAY Alabama Colorectal Cancer Prevention
6 Program, which aims to increase colorectal cancer screening
7 rates in the state through public information initiatives
8 about the importance of screening for early detection; and

9 WHEREAS, funding for the FITWAY Alabama program is
10 approved by the Legislature and the Governor; and

11 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society supports FITWAY
12 Alabama because early detection saves lives; and

13 WHEREAS, greater awareness of colon cancer and the
14 means to prevent it could save the lives of hundreds of
15 Alabamians every year; and

16 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable,
17 treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

18 WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
19 during the month of March 2017 would provide a special
20 opportunity to offer education on the importance of early
21 detection and screening; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize the importance of
24 colorectal screenings and encourage Alabamians who are 50 and
25 over to get a colorectal screening.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize March 2017
2 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in Alabama.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 23-FEB-17.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

14-MAR-17

Adopted