

Senate Resolution 349

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Echols of the 49th, Hodges of the 3rd, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 2023 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) dedicates time
3 and resources to promote colorectal cancer (CRC) awareness; and
- 4 WHEREAS, ASGE is a global leader dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive
5 health through education and advocacy and promoting excellence in gastrointestinal
6 endoscopy; and
- 7 WHEREAS, CRC is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States;
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, the incidence and mortality rates for CRC vary by age, race/ethnicity,
10 geography, and socioeconomic status; and
- 11 WHEREAS, CRC can be prevented or detected early through screening; and
- 12 WHEREAS, CRC has a 90 percent survival rate when detected early enough; and

13 WHEREAS, gastroenterologists perform colonoscopies to prevent or detect CRC by
14 removing colon polyps; and

15 WHEREAS, there are also several other recommended options for CRC screening; and

16 WHEREAS, offering patients screening options can help increase patient adherence to
17 screening; and

18 WHEREAS, follow up colonoscopy is required after a positive non-colonoscopy screening
19 test result to derive the benefits of screening; and

20 WHEREAS, follow-up colonoscopy rates for patients who are in under-served (uninsured
21 and under-insured) populations and who have a positive stool-based CRC test remain
22 unacceptably low (50 percent to 70 percent); and

23 WHEREAS, the low follow-up colonoscopy rate can be attributed to diverse and complex
24 obstacles in health systems, policy, socio-economic status, and community; and

25 WHEREAS, successful CRC screening programs require a systematic and collaborative
26 approach that involves health systems, providers, patient navigators, community programs,
27 and state and federal policymakers.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize March 2023 as Colorectal Awareness Month and encourage eligible citizens to
30 consult their healthcare providers and begin regular screenings.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the timely follow-up colonoscopy rate for patients who
32 have a positive CRC stool-based test using best practices can be replicated and expanded
33 across all populations and regions.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
36 press.