

**STATE OF MAINE**

—  
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

—  
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS  
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States and it affects men and women equally; and

**WHEREAS**, every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths could have been prevented through proper screening and early detection but only 39% of colorectal cancer patients are diagnosed at an early stage; and

**WHEREAS**, the survival rate of individuals who have early-stage colorectal cancer is 90% but the survival rate is only 10% for individuals diagnosed after the cancer has spread to other organs; and

**WHEREAS**, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is that 80% of Americans 50 years of age and older be screened by 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, if the majority of people in the United States 50 years of age or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 70%; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and survivable in most cases; and

**WHEREAS**, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.