

House Concurrent Resolution No. 51

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY.

1610H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to colon cancer awareness week.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

1 **WHEREAS**, colon cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States,
2 currently attacking 1 in 20 adults; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, approximately 135,000 new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed each
5 year, with an estimated 50,000 of those diagnosed dying of the disease; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, with early detection by a screening colonoscopy, this cancer is extremely
8 preventable because it almost always begins as a polyp which presents in the colon for months
9 or even years before actual cancer develops; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that more than 40% of the people at risk for colon cancer,
12 those age 50 and older, are not using the powerful tools now available to avoid dying of colon
13 cancer or even prevent the disease; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, experts estimate the number of colon cancer deaths each year could
16 potentially drop by 50% if all Americans age 50 and older followed the American Cancer
17 Society's colon cancer screening guidelines; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, sadly, less than 50% of colon cancers are currently found in the earliest and
20 most treatable stage; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, colon cancer hits African Americans harder than any other ethnic group in
23 the United States, so regular screening is particularly important, with not only an increased risk
24 for the disease, but are more likely to be diagnosed when cancer is advanced. African Americans

25 are also more likely to die from colon cancer than any other ethnic group for reasons not yet
26 completely clear; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, some women hold the dangerous belief that colon cancer is a man's disease,
29 so they skip early detection tests. In reality, both men and women are equally at risk for colon
30 cancer; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, public awareness to the risk factors and risk reduction measures that can
33 be taken by persons most at risk will undoubtedly save thousands of lives each year:

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35 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby designate the third full week of March as "Colon Cancer Awareness
38 Week" in Missouri; and

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40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and
41 recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe Colon Cancer Awareness Week
42 through activities which will increase awareness to colon cancer disease, its risk factors, and
43 prevention and risk reduction measures which can be taken; and

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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
46 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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