
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 40 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, KINSEY, READSHAW, EVERETT, BURNS,
T. DAVIS, MILLARD, WARREN, HILL-EVANS, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG,
CALTAGIRONE, STURLA, MIZGORSKI, DeLUCA, OBERLANDER, COX,
LONGIETTI, PASHINSKI, BROWN, DiGIROLAMO, JOZWIAK, DEASY,
HENNESSEY, SAYLOR AND SCHWEYER, JANUARY 24, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Blue Lights Campaign and its efforts to raise
2 awareness of colorectal cancer in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in
4 the United States and the second leading cause of cancer-related
5 death among men and women combined; and

6 WHEREAS, One in 20 people will be diagnosed with colorectal
7 cancer in their lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, The disease takes the lives of more than 50,000
9 people every year; and

10 WHEREAS, It is recommended that people begin screening for
11 colorectal cancer at 50 years of age or even earlier if they
12 have a family history of the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer is
14 preventable, but one in three Americans of appropriate age do
15 not get the simple test every year; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Marianne Ritchie, a gastroenterologist with

1 Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, has organized the
2 Blue Lights Campaign for the past five years to educate
3 Pennsylvanians about colorectal cancer and encourage them to get
4 screened; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Ritchie works with government officials and
6 private businesses throughout Philadelphia to get many of the
7 city's most well-known buildings and structures lit up in blue
8 for one week in March each year in honor of National Colorectal
9 Cancer Awareness Month; and

10 WHEREAS, Participating places and buildings in Philadelphia
11 have included PECO, Two Liberty Place, the FMC Tower, the Cira
12 Centre, the Lit Brothers building, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge,
13 the Franklin Institute, Lincoln Financial Field and Boathouse
14 Row; and

15 WHEREAS, The State Capitol Building in Harrisburg and
16 courthouses and county buildings across this Commonwealth have
17 also been lit up in blue as part of the campaign; and

18 WHEREAS, It is Dr. Ritchie's hope that if people are
19 surrounded by the blue lights, they will feel the urgency of the
20 message to talk to their health care provider about and get
21 screened for colorectal cancer, whether it is through a
22 colonoscopy or another physician-recommended method; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to getting screened, individuals are
24 encouraged to take preventive measures to reduce their risk of
25 developing the disease, such as eating healthier, increasing
26 physical activity and reducing alcohol and tobacco intake; and

27 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes the crucial
28 need to raise awareness of colorectal cancer among
29 Pennsylvanians in order to promote prevention and early
30 detection; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 Blue Lights Campaign and its ongoing effort to raise awareness
3 of colorectal cancer in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge residents to
5 take the necessary steps to get screened and promote prevention
6 and early detection of this disease.