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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, FONTANA, KANE,  
HUGHES, SCHWANK, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, J. WARD AND MUTH,  
MARCH 7, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 7, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2022 as "National Colorectal  
2 Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that starts in  
4 the colon or rectum, both of which are parts of the large  
5 intestine and the body's digestive system; and

6 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer often begins as an abnormal growth  
7 called a polyp, which may form on the inner wall of the colon or  
8 rectum; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to colorectal polyps, risk factors of  
10 colorectal cancer include increasing age, family history,  
11 certain genetic mutations, excessive alcohol use, obesity,  
12 physical inactivity, cigarette smoking and history of  
13 inflammatory bowel disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms of developing colorectal cancer include  
15 changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, stomach pains or  
16 cramps, weakness and unexplained weight loss; and

17 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of

1 cancer-related death in the United States, with more than 50,000  
2 Americans dying every year; and

3 WHEREAS, Unprecedented progress has been made in the last  
4 decade in reducing colorectal cancer incidence and death rates,  
5 largely due to prevention and early detection through screening;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In May 2021, the recommended age to initiate  
8 screening was lowered from age 50 to 45 because of the rising  
9 number of cases in younger people; and

10 WHEREAS, Screening may begin earlier than age 45 for  
11 individuals with a family history of colon polyps or colorectal  
12 cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, Since 2000, March has been celebrated as "National  
14 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" by advocacy groups, public  
15 officials, health care providers and patients; and

16 WHEREAS, During this month, participants generate widespread  
17 awareness about colorectal cancer by wearing blue, holding  
18 fundraising and education events, talking to family and friends  
19 about screening and so much more; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of March 2022  
21 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate join advocates nationwide in urging  
24 the residents of this Commonwealth to follow preventative  
25 measures such as:

26 (1) Increasing the intensity and amount of physical  
27 activity.

28 (2) Maintaining a healthy weight.

29 (3) Quitting smoking.

30 (4) Limiting alcohol intake.

1 (5) Eating healthy fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

2 (6) Reducing the intake of red meat and avoiding  
3 processed meat.

4 (7) Beginning regular screenings at 45 years of age and  
5 earlier for those individuals at higher risk.

6 (8) Consulting with a doctor about tests for detecting  
7 cancer and precancer, such as a colonoscopy, virtual  
8 colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, fecal occult blood test,  
9 fecal immunochemical test and stool DNA test;

10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge its members, the Department of  
12 Health and health care professionals across this Commonwealth to  
13 recognize "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" in  
14 Pennsylvania to increase awareness about the disease and educate  
15 residents on the important preventative steps that they can  
16 take.