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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 55 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, FONTANA, HUGHES, SCAVELLO, BROWNE, MARTIN,  
KANE, J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, COSTA, HUTCHINSON, PITTMAN,  
MENSCH AND BREWSTER, MARCH 22, 2021

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 22, 2021

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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 by the American Cancer Society and  
11 national medical societies that individuals begin screening for  
12 colorectal cancer at 45 years of age or even earlier if they  
13 have a family history of the disease; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Marianne Ritchie, a gastroenterologist with

1 Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, has organized the  
2 Blue Lights Campaign for the past eight years to educate  
3 residents of this Commonwealth about colorectal cancer and  
4 encourage them to get 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, The State Capitol Building in Harrisburg will be lit  
19 up in blue for the month of March 2021; and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, The Senate recognizes the crucial need to raise  
30 awareness of colorectal cancer among residents of this

1 Commonwealth in order to promote prevention and early detection;  
2 therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Blue Lights Campaign  
4 and its ongoing effort to raise awareness of colorectal cancer  
5 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the Senate urge residents to take the  
7 necessary steps to get screened and promote prevention and early  
8 detection of this disease.