
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 56 Session of
2021

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

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 22, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2021 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 mortality in the United States, where it was
2 expected to have caused 53,200 deaths in 2020; 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, Up to 60% of deaths from colorectal cancer could be
8 prevented if everyone 50 years of age or older were screened
9 regularly and appropriately treated; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a national movement to decrease the
11 screening age for people at average risk from 50 to 45 years of
12 age because there has been a rise in cases of colorectal cancer
13 in younger adults; and

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of March 2021
22 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;
23 and be it further

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

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

29 (2) Maintaining a healthy weight.

30 (3) Quitting smoking.

1 (4) Limiting alcohol intake.

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

3 (6) Reducing the intake of red meat and cutting out
4 processed meat.

5 (7) Beginning regular screenings at 50 years of age and
6 earlier for those individuals at higher risk.

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

11 and be it further

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