

1 SJR99
2 192997-1
3 By Senators Dial, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Figures,
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Sanders, Sanford,
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 13-MAR-18

8 RECOGNIZING MARCH 2018 AS COLORECTAL CANCER
9 AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA.
10

11 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common
12 cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, in the United States, the lifetime risk of
14 being diagnosed with cancer of the colon or rectum is 5.5
15 percent for men and 5.1 percent for women; and

16 WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths
17 can be prevented through proper screening and early detection;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, if 80 percent of adults were screened for
20 colon cancer by 2018, there would be 203,000 fewer deaths due
21 to colon cancer by 2030; and

22 WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have
23 colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early
24 stages versus only 10 percent survival rate when colorectal
25 cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

1 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,230
2 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this
3 year and 950 people will die from the disease; and

4 WHEREAS, deaths from colorectal cancer occur
5 disproportionately among those who are underserved or
6 underinsured; and

7 WHEREAS, when detected early, the five-year survival
8 rate for colon cancer is 90 percent; however, only 39 percent
9 of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due
10 to low rates of screening; and

11 WHEREAS, five-year survival rates decline
12 dramatically when colorectal cancer is diagnosed in later
13 stages; and

14 WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health
15 administers the FITWAY Alabama Colorectal Cancer Prevention
16 Program, which aims to increase colorectal cancer screening
17 rates in the state through public information initiatives
18 about the importance of screening for early detection; and

19 WHEREAS, funding for the FITWAY Alabama program is
20 approved by the Legislature and the Governor; and

21 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society supports FITWAY
22 Alabama because early detection saves lives; and

23 WHEREAS, greater awareness of colon cancer and the
24 means to prevent it could save the lives of hundreds of
25 Alabamians every year; and

26 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable,
27 treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

1 WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
2 during the month of March 2018 would provide a special
3 opportunity to offer education on the importance of early
4 detection and screening; now therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize the importance of
7 colorectal screenings and encourage Alabamians who are 50 and
8 over to get a colorectal screening.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize March 2018
10 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in Alabama.