

1 SJR25  
2 137072-1  
3 By Senators Waggoner, Blackwell, Bussman, Williams, and Marsh  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 16-FEB-12

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8 RECOGNIZING COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN  
9 ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common  
12 cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama, and the  
13 lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer of the colon or  
14 rectum is 5.5 percent for men and 5.1 percent for women in the  
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths  
17 can be prevented through proper screening and early detection,  
18 and the survival rate of individuals who have colorectal  
19 cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early stages versus  
20 only a 10 percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is  
21 diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

22 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,310  
23 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this  
24 year, and 930 people will die from the disease, and deaths  
25 from colorectal cancer occur disproportionately among those  
26 who are underserved or underinsured; and

1                   WHEREAS, between 2004 and 2007, 40 percent of  
2 colorectal cancer cases in Alabama were diagnosed at late  
3 stages, when the chance of survival is decreased; and

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

10                  WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health  
11 administers the FITWAY program, which aims to increase  
12 colorectal cancer screening rates in the state through public  
13 information initiatives about the importance of screening for  
14 early detection; and

15                  WHEREAS, FITWAY also provides limited screenings and  
16 diagnostic testing for low-income, uninsured, or underinsured  
17 residents of Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw, Coffee, Dale, Dallas,  
18 Henry, Houston, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Mobile, Montgomery,  
19 Pike, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties; and

20                  WHEREAS, screening recipients must be between 50 and  
21 64, have an income at or below 200 percent of the federal  
22 poverty level, be under the care of a primary care physician,  
23 be at average risk of colorectal cancer, and have no symptoms  
24 of colorectal cancer; and

25                  WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society supports FITWAY  
26 Alabama because early detection saves lives; greater awareness  
27 of colon cancer and the means to prevent it could save the

1           lives of hundreds of Alabamians every year; and colorectal  
2           cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases;  
3           and

4           WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month  
5           during the month of March provides a special opportunity to  
6           offer education on the importance of early detection and  
7           screening; now therefore,

8           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
9           HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize March 2012 as  
10          Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the State of Alabama and,  
11          by copy of this resolution for appropriate presentation and  
12          display, we commend this observance and encourage all  
13          Alabamians to recognize the importance of early detection and  
14          treatment of colorectal cancer.