

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.

10
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.