

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

1 SJR25

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4 ENROLLED, SJR25,

5 RECOGNIZING COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN
6 ALABAMA.

7
8 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common
9 cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama, and the
10 lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer of the colon or
11 rectum is 5.5 percent for men and 5.1 percent for women in the
12 United States; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,310
20 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this
21 year, and 930 people will die from the disease, and deaths
22 from colorectal cancer occur disproportionately among those
23 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

1 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society supports FITWAY
 2 Alabama because early detection saves lives; greater awareness
 3 of colon cancer and the means to prevent it could save the
 4 lives of hundreds of Alabamians every year; and colorectal
 5 cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases;
 6 and

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR25

Senate 16-FEB-12

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 21-FEB-12

By: Senator Waggoner