

1 HJR120  
2 137086-2  
3 By Representative Galliher  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 16-FEB-12

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN  
4 ALABAMA.

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,310  
18 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this  
19 year, and 930 people will die from the disease, and deaths  
20 from colorectal cancer occur disproportionately among those  
21 who are underserved or underinsured; and

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

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

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

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

17                  WHEREAS, screening recipients must be between 50 and  
18                  64, have an income at or below 200 percent of the federal  
19                  poverty level, be under the care of a primary care physician,  
20                  be at average risk of colorectal cancer, and have no symptoms  
21                  of colorectal cancer; and

22                  WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society supports FITWAY  
23                  Alabama because early detection saves lives; greater awareness  
24                  of colon cancer and the means to prevent it could save the  
25                  lives of hundreds of Alabamians every year; and colorectal

1           cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases;  
2           and

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

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

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
9 and was adopted by the House 21-FEB-12.

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Greg Pappas  
Clerk

Senate

15-MAR-12

Adopted