

1 HJR71
2 182637-1
3 By Representative Johnson (R)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-FEB-17

RECOGNIZING MARCH 2017 AS COLORECTAL CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,210
cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this
year and 940 people will die from the disease; and

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

WHEREAS, when detected early, the five-year survival
rate for colon cancer is 90 percent; however, only 39 percent

1 of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due
2 to low rates of screening; and

3 WHEREAS, five-year survival rates decline
4 dramatically when colorectal cancer is diagnosed in later
5 stages; and

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

11 WHEREAS, funding for the FITWAY Alabama program is
12 approved by the Legislature and the Governor; and

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

15 WHEREAS, greater awareness of colon cancer and the
16 means to prevent it could save the lives of hundreds of
17 Alabamians every year; and

18 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable,
19 treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

20 WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
21 during the month of March 2017 would provide a special
22 opportunity to offer education on the importance of early
23 detection and screening; now therefore,

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize March 2017
2 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in Alabama.