HR12

P2LXREE-1

By Representatives Faulkner, Mooney, DuBose, Shaw

RFD: RULES

First Read: 06-Feb-24

HR___ RECOGNIZING MARCH 2024 AS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is one of the most highly preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can find polyps that can be removed before becoming cancerous; and

WHEREAS, screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if every individual aged 50 or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, when detected early, the five-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due to low rates of screening; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer screenings can effectively reduce colorectal cancer incidence and mortality, yet, one in three adults over 50 years of age are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening; and

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

underinsured; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, colorectal cancer rates have been increasing by two percent per year in people younger than 50 years of age; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education campaigns on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms are held during the month March each year; and

WHEREAS, educational efforts can help provide information to the public of methods of prevention and screening, as well as about symptoms for early detection; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we recognize the importance of colorectal screenings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all Alabamians who are age 45 and older to get a colorectal screening, and we recognize March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in Alabama.