25 LC 112 2934

House Resolution 230

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 114<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 2025 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) dedicates time
- and resources to promote colorectal cancer (CRC) awareness; and
- 4 WHEREAS, ASGE represents more than 16,000 gastroenterologists and allied health care
- 5 professionals around the world who are dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive
- 6 health through education and advocacy and promoting excellence in gastrointestinal
- 7 endoscopy; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the number of uninsured or underinsured patients in the United States who have
- 9 a positive (abnormal) CRC screening test result who get a timely follow-up colonoscopy is
- 10 just 50 to 70 percent; and
- WHEREAS, the low follow-up colonoscopy rate can be attributed to a diverse and complex
- 12 mix of barriers or obstacles related to the health care system, policy, and one's socioeconomic
- 13 status and community; and

25 LC 112 2934

14 WHEREAS, CRC is now the leading cause of cancer death in men under 50 and the second

- 15 leading cause of cancer death in women under 50 in the United States; and
- 16 WHEREAS, CRC has a 90 percent survival rate when detected early enough; and
- 17 WHEREAS, ASGE recommends that people who have not had colorectal cancer or polyps
- or who do not have any high-risk factors for CRC should begin getting screened for CRC at
- 19 the age of 45; and
- 20 WHEREAS, ASGE is working with Community Health Care Systems, Inc., which is a
- 21 federally qualified health center that cares for patients in middle Georgia, on a project that
- 22 is designed to increase the follow-up colonoscopy rate for uninsured and underinsured people
- 23 who have a positive or abnormal stool-based CRC screening test; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Community Health Care Systems is identifying and assisting hundreds of
- 25 uninsured and underinsured patients to get screened for CRC using a stool-based DNA test
- and to get a follow-up colonoscopy if it's necessary at no cost to the patients; and
- 27 WHEREAS, ASGE and Community Health Care Systems will support these patients with
- 28 professional navigators from Horizons Community Solutions who will guide them through
- 29 the full continuum of care at no cost to the patients; and
- 30 WHEREAS, ASGE and Community Health Care Systems are collaborating on this project
- 31 with physicians and allied health care professionals; patient navigators; legislators and
- 32 regulators; state and local advocacy organizations such as the Georgia CRC Roundtable,
- 33 Georgia CORE, and Fight CRC!; and community leaders; and

25 LC 112 2934

34 WHEREAS, gastroenterologists perform colonoscopies to prevent or detect CRC by

- 35 removing colon polyps; and
- 36 WHEREAS, a follow-up colonoscopy is required after a positive non-colonoscopic screening
- 37 test result to derive the benefits of screening; and
- 38 WHEREAS, there are several other recommended options for CRC screening; and
- 39 WHEREAS, offering patients screening options can help increase patient adherence to
- 40 screening.
- 41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
- 42 the members of this body recognize March 2025 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and
- 43 encourage eligible citizens to consult their health care providers and begin regular
- 44 screenings.
- 45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASGE's project has the potential to lead to the
- development of a public policy model and a toolkit that can be used to increase the follow-up
- 47 colonoscopy rate for underserved people across the United States and has the potential to
- 48 save countless lives.
- 49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
- 51 public and the press.