

Senate Resolution 542

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd, Halpern of the 39th, Anderson of the 43rd, Jackson of the 41st and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the changing of the minimum age of colorectal cancer screenings; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the most common forms of cancer, and cases
4 of young-onset CRC are increasing; and

5 WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute reports that CRC has increased significantly for
6 young adults since 1990. According to *U.S. News*, Americans in their 20s and 30s are seeing
7 the steepest rise in distant-stage CRC, and between 2000 and 2016, their rates rose from 57
8 percent to 66 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, CRC is more likely to be lethal in children and young adults than middle-aged
10 adults, and in the United States, Black Americans have a 20 percent higher incidence of
11 colon cancer than non-Hispanic white people and are 40 percent more likely to die of the
12 disease; and

13 WHEREAS, the rising rate of young-onset CRC prompted a major change in official
14 screening guidelines when the recommended age to start CRC screening dropped from 50

15 to 45 years old for people at average risk; however, there are still many young adults dying
16 from this disease because they waited too late; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, about 18,000 people younger than
18 50 were diagnosed with CRC in 2020, and over the next decade, CRC incidence among those
19 younger than 50 is expected to nearly double and is on track to become the leading cause of
20 cancer-related death in those younger than 50; and

21 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimated there would be 151,030 new cases of
22 CRC and 52,580 deaths from the disease in 2022; and

23 WHEREAS, the lack of preventive care could play a major role in the diagnosis of
24 advanced-stage CRC, and one death from CRC is one too many when it is one of the most
25 treatable cancers if detected early; and

26 WHEREAS, lowering the age for screening is an important step in lowering CRC rates and
27 the death of young adults; and

28 WHEREAS, CRC may develop without symptoms, and screening is the number one way to
29 prevent or detect this disease early when it is most treatable.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 encourage the need to change the age of colonoscopy screenings for average-risk individuals
32 as well as for first degree relatives of colorectal cancer in the medical and insurance
33 communities in recognition of the increased prevalence of young-onset colorectal cancer.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
36 press.