

## Senate Resolution 679

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Harrell of the 40th, Sims of the 12th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia has organizations such as the Atlanta Medical Association, Inc. (AMA)  
3 and the Georgia Gastroenterologic and Endoscopic Society (GGES) that dedicate time and  
4 resources to promoting colorectal cancer awareness; and

5 WHEREAS, the AMA has provided medical leadership to eliminate health disparities for its  
6 patients within the Atlanta metropolitan communities through scientific, legislative, and  
7 public health and clinical care provided by its membership for over 132 years. The AMA is  
8 also responsible for providing medical school mentorship, medical school scholarships,  
9 impactful community service programs, advocacy, public health policy, and medical  
10 education programming that are helping to close the gap on health inequities in Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, the GGES has provided a society for the continued sharing of medical  
12 knowledge to gastroenterologists in Georgia. The GGES has provided a forum for presentation  
13 of scientific knowledge and research in the fields related to gastroenterology, gastrointestinal  
14 endoscopy, and hepatology through continuing education and advocacy related to digestive  
15 diseases affecting citizens of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the Centers of Disease Control and the Georgia Department of  
17 Health, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in both men and women  
18 in the U.S. and in the State of Georgia. Although our fellow Georgians die of colorectal  
19 cancer each year, this does not have to be the case; and

20 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable and treatable due to advances in diagnostic  
21 techniques such as colonoscopies and improvements in treatments, and the death rate from  
22 colorectal cancer has been decreasing; and

23 WHEREAS, cancer isn't completely preventable, but there are steps one can take to lower  
24 their risk, and the AMA and the GGES both educate patients on the matter; and

25 WHEREAS, all genders and races are affected by colorectal cancer, and, in 2021, national  
26 colorectal screening guidelines were updated to reflect the changing impact of colorectal  
27 cancer on younger patients and minority communities; 45 is now the new recommended  
28 screening age for all Americans; and

29 WHEREAS, the AMA and GGES are two nonprofit organizations highlighting the  
30 importance of having honest, open discussions concerning one's healthcare and the  
31 importance of being informed of the proper screening options and treatments as they relate  
32 to colorectal cancer; and

33 WHEREAS, Georgia has medical practices and healthcare organizations such as local,  
34 independent, and private gastroenterologists and hospital systems that provide this life saving  
35 service of screening for colorectal cancer, including Augusta University Health, Emory  
36 Healthcare, Cancer Treatment Centers of America-Atlanta (a part of City of Hope), Grady

37 Health System, Morehouse Healthcare, Atrium Health Navicent, Piedmont Healthcare, and  
38 Wellstar Health System; and

39 WHEREAS, advancing patient care and clinical education while ensuring communities make  
40 healthy lifestyle choices are ways we can ensure our communities are at a lower risk of  
41 developing colorectal cancer; and

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
43 recognize March as Colorectal Awareness Month and encourage eligible citizens to  
44 consult their healthcare providers and begin regular screenings.

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