
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 250 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY GALLAGHER, MAJOR, KHAN, FLICK, VENKAT,
KOSIEROWSKI, GUENST, MADDEN, SAMUELSON, SANCHEZ, N. NELSON,
HILL-EVANS, HANBIDGE, HOHENSTEIN, ROZZI, MUNROE, PICKETT,
MERSKI, GILLEN, A. BROWN, ABNEY, DONAHUE, T. DAVIS, McNEILL,
MARCELL, SCHLOSSBERG, BOROWSKI, KINSEY, McANDREW, CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, GAYDOS, NEILSON, FREEMAN, DALEY, HADDOCK, ARMANINI,
MALAGARI AND PASHINSKI, OCTOBER 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 27, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2024 as "Colorectal Cancer
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is cancer in either the colon or
4 the rectum; and

5 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is usually related to polyps which
6 form in the colon or rectum and can spread through nearby
7 tissues or lymph nodes and possibly spread to other organs; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of colorectal cancer can include blood in
9 or on stool, stomach pain, aches or cramps that do not go away
10 and unexplained weight loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is a serious diagnosis that can
12 upend a person's life; and

13 WHEREAS, One in 24 people will be diagnosed with colorectal
14 cancer in their lifetime; and

15 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly

1 diagnosed cancer; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2023, an estimated 153,020 new cases of
3 colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, A colonoscopy is the gold standard of colon cancer
5 screening because the procedure can both diagnose colon cancer
6 and remove polyps that can become cancerous; and

7 WHEREAS, A colonoscopy limits the likelihood of new cases of
8 colon cancer by 69% and reduces the chance of dying by 88%; and

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Health recommends that a person be
10 screened for colorectal cancer between 45 and 75 years of age,
11 as the risk of developing colorectal cancer increases with age;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Just 66% of Pennsylvania adults over 45 years of age
14 have been screened for colorectal cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Screening for colorectal cancer is important because
16 symptoms may not be present, especially in early stages; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixty-eight percent of deaths from colorectal cancer
18 could be prevented with screening; and

19 WHEREAS, The five-year survival rate of localized colorectal
20 cancer is 90%; and

21 WHEREAS, There are more than 1.5 million colorectal cancer
22 survivors in the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, Some patients with colorectal cancer have a
24 temporary or permanent stoma, or opening in the abdomen,
25 following surgery and an estimated 750,000 to 1,000,000
26 Americans have an ostomy; and

27 WHEREAS, Rates of colorectal cancer are different across race
28 and ethnicity; and

29 WHEREAS, Black Americans are 20% more likely to have
30 colorectal cancer and 40% more likely to die from it; and

1 WHEREAS, Native communities face the highest rate of cases
2 out of any ethnic group; and

3 WHEREAS, Incidence rates for colorectal cancer have declined
4 more than 50% between 1985 and 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite the decline in this disease over the past
6 four decades, colorectal cancer is still the second most deadly
7 cancer in this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, Among the top five most deadly cancers, colorectal
9 cancer is the only one that does not have its own research
10 program and dedicated funding stream; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
12 month of March 2024 as "Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" in
13 Pennsylvania.