

1 SJR4
2 197198-1
3 By Senators McClendon, Gudger, Sessions, Elliott, Chesteen,
4 Coleman-Madison, Shelnut, Allen, Waggoner, Orr, Butler, Ward,
5 Livingston, Scofield, Melson, Stutts, Price, Albritton,
6 Barfoot, Beasley, Burkette, Chambliss, Dunn, Figures, Givhan,
7 Holley, Jones, Marsh, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,
8 Singleton, Smitherman, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 05-MAR-19

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8 RECOGNIZING MARCH 2019 AS COLORECTAL CANCER
9 AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common
12 cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, the lifetime risk of being diagnosed with
14 cancer of the colon or rectum is 5.5 percent for men and 5.1
15 percent for women in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths
17 can be prevented through proper screening and early detection;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, if 80 percent of adults were screened for
20 colon cancer, 203,000 fewer people would die by 2030; and

21 WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have
22 colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early
23 stages versus only 10 percent survival rate when colorectal
24 cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

25 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,230
26 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this
27 year and 950 people will die from the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, deaths from colorectal cancer occur
2 disproportionately among those who are underserved or
3 underinsured; and

4 WHEREAS, when detected early, the five-year survival
5 rates for colon cancer is 90 percent; however, only 39 percent
6 of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due
7 to low rates of screening; and

8 WHEREAS, five-year survival rates decline
9 dramatically when colorectal cancer is diagnosed in later
10 stages; and

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

14 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable,
15 treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

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

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize the importance of
22 colorectal screenings.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all
24 Alabamians who are age 45 and older to get a colorectal
25 screening and recognize March 2019 as Colorectal Cancer
26 Awareness Month in Alabama.