

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 2019 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

2 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the  
3 United States among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure; and

4 WHEREAS, one in twenty men and one in twenty-four women will be diagnosed  
5 with colorectal cancer in their lifetimes; and

6 WHEREAS, there are now more than one million survivors of colorectal cancer in  
7 the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, over 2,700 Kentuckians are diagnosed annually with colorectal cancer;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, as screening rates have risen by 50%, incidence rates and mortality  
11 rates have declined dramatically, which means that every year almost 400 Kentuckians  
12 who would have gotten colorectal cancer no longer get the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2016, screening rates rose from 35% to 70%,  
14 improving more than any other state in the country and moving the state from a ranking  
15 of 49th to 17th; and

16 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program has assisted hundreds  
17 of individuals without insurance to obtain access to a colorectal screening; and

18 WHEREAS, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer  
19 Roundtable is 80 percent of Americans ages 50 and older be screened in every  
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, one of Kentucky's 15 Area Development Districts has reached the 80  
22 percent goal; and

23 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Cancer Consortium was named the "2019 80% by 2018  
24 National Achievement Award Honoree" by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable  
25 for its public awareness, advocacy, and provider education efforts; and

26 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Cancer Consortium is Kentucky's statewide  
27 comprehensive cancer control coalition composed of more than 70 organizations and 450

1 partners committed to reducing cancer in the state; and

2 WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were  
3 screened regularly for colorectal cancer, one-half of all cases could be prevented entirely;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, public knowledge of the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer is  
6 critical for all people, of all ages, to reduce the incidence and mortality from the disease;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of  
9 March provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early  
10 detection and screening;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
13 *Kentucky:*

14 ➔Section 1. The Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes the month  
15 of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and urges that the citizens of this  
16 Commonwealth be appropriately screened for colorectal cancer.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
18 Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado.