

Senate Resolution 755

By: Senators Sims of the 12th and Summers of the 13th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and honoring the Georgia  
2 Colorectal Cancer Control program for its impact on increasing screenings in Federal  
3 Qualified Health Clinics in Southwest and Southeast Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, cancer is the second leading cause of death in Georgia and throughout the  
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the one of the state's deadliest preventable cancers; and

7 WHEREAS, screenings can remove precancerous growths and prevent 60 percent of  
8 colorectal cancers, and 90 percent of cases can be cured if detected early; and

9 WHEREAS, the national guidelines for the recommended age to receive colorectal cancer  
10 screening was recently decreased from 50 to 45 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 4,940 new cases of  
12 colorectal cancer diagnosed and 1,660 deaths from this cancer this year in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia's overall colon cancer screening rate for those between 45 and 75 years  
14 of age is 58 percent, and historically the average rate in Southwest Georgia was 53 percent  
15 and Southeast Georgia was 33 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (CORE) partnered  
17 with the Medical College of Georgia and the School of Public Health at Augusta University,  
18 the Albany Area Primary Health Clinic, the East Georgia Healthcare Center, and Horizons  
19 Community Solutions and was awarded a five-year cooperative agreement from the Centers  
20 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase screening rates in Southeast and  
21 Southwest Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, these partners formed the Georgia Colorectal Cancer Control Program  
23 (GCRCCP) in 2020 and have since worked together since to increase awareness and bring  
24 colorectal cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured patients aged 45 to 75 in three  
25 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) through 18 of their clinics; and

26 WHEREAS, screening rates last year increased from 57 percent to 60 percent in the  
27 Southwest GCRCCP clinics and from 33 percent to 44 percent in the Southeast GCRCCP  
28 clinics for those aged 50 to 75 as a result of this program; and

29 WHEREAS, this program is saving the lives of Georgians who may otherwise suffer from  
30 late-stage colorectal cancer; and

31 WHEREAS, March is recognized nationally as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 recognize March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and honor the Georgia

34 Colorectal Cancer Control Program for its impact on increasing screenings in Federally  
35 Qualified Health Clinics in Southwest and Southeast Georgia.

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