
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 716 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, BIZZARRO, SAINATO, MURT, LONGIETTI,
KIM, KORTZ, HARKINS, McNEILL, RYAN, SONNEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
HILL-EVANS, MATZIE, PICKETT, MILLARD, CONKLIN, SCHLOSSBERG,
COX, BROWN, BURNS, THOMAS, EVERETT, KENYATTA, HOWARD AND
CIRESI, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2020 as "National Colorectal
2 Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that starts in
4 the colon or rectum, both of which are parts of the large
5 intestine and the body's digestive system; and

6 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer often begins as an abnormal growth
7 called a polyp, which may form on the inner wall of the colon or
8 rectum; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to colorectal polyps, risk factors of
10 colorectal cancer include increasing age, family history,
11 certain genetic mutations, excessive alcohol use, obesity,
12 physical inactivity, cigarette smoking and history of
13 inflammatory bowel disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms of developing colorectal cancer include
15 changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, stomach pains or
16 cramps, weakness and unexplained weight loss; and

1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of
2 cancer-related mortality in the United States, where it is
3 expected to cause 53,200 deaths in 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, Unprecedented progress has been made in the last
5 decade in reducing colorectal cancer incidence and death rates
6 largely due to prevention and early detection through screening;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Up to 60% of deaths from colorectal cancer could be
9 prevented if everyone 50 years of age or older were screened
10 regularly and appropriately treated; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 2000, March has been celebrated as "National
12 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" by advocacy groups, public
13 officials, health care providers and patients; and

14 WHEREAS, During this month, participants generate widespread
15 awareness about colorectal cancer by wearing blue, holding
16 fundraising and education events, talking to family and friends
17 about screening and so much more; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
19 month of March 2020 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness
20 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join advocates
22 nationwide in urging the residents of this Commonwealth to
23 follow preventative measures such as:

- 24 (1) Increasing the intensity and amount of physical
25 activity.
- 26 (2) Maintaining a healthy weight.
- 27 (3) Quitting smoking.
- 28 (4) Limiting alcohol intake.
- 29 (5) Eating healthy fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- 30 (6) Reducing the intake of red meat and cutting out

1 processed meat.

2 (7) Beginning regular screenings at 50 years of age and
3 earlier for those individuals at higher risk.

4 (8) Consulting with a doctor about tests for detecting
5 cancer and precancer, such as a colonoscopy, virtual
6 colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, stool occult blood test,
7 stool immunochemical test and stool DNA test;

8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge its members,
10 the Department of Health and health care professionals across
11 this Commonwealth to recognize "National Colorectal Cancer
12 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness about the
13 disease and educate residents on the important preventative
14 steps that they can take.