

2024 -- S 2795

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH AS "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Pearson, Gallo, Miller, Lawson, F. Lombardi, de la  
Cruz, Rogers, Zurier, and McKenney

Date Introduced: March 21, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society encourages the citizens of the State of Rhode  
2 Island to observe March, 2024, as "Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; and

3           WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths  
4 among men and women combined in Rhode Island as well as in the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in 2024 there will be an  
6 estimated 152,810 new cases of colon and rectal cancer in the United States and 53,010 deaths  
7 from colorectal cancer. In Rhode Island in 2024, there will be an estimated 470 new cases of  
8 colorectal cancer, and 160 deaths from colorectal cancer; and

9           WHEREAS, When colorectal cancer is found early, it has a survival rate of 90 percent,  
10 but left undetected, survival rates for colorectal cancer can plummet to 10 percent; and

11           WHEREAS, There are often no symptoms of colorectal cancer, but regular screenings  
12 can significantly reduce the number of deaths from this disease by detecting cancerous or pre-  
13 cancerous conditions early, when treatment is most effective; and

14           WHEREAS, Education can help inform the public of methods of early detection and  
15 prevention. Colorectal cancer is largely preventable with screening tests that find and remove pre-  
16 cancerous polyps; and

17           WHEREAS, In 2021, our dear friend and colleague, Senator Maryellen Goodwin was  
18 honored with the American Cancer Society's "National Distinguished Advocacy Award", the  
19 organization's highest recognition, for her efforts to educate and bring awareness to colorectal

1 cancer, which included championing the passage of the "Maryellen Goodwin Colorectal Cancer  
2 Screening Act" that mandated full coverage for preventive screenings and colonoscopies; and

3 WHEREAS, Working with the legislature, the American Cancer Society remains  
4 committed and dedicated to informing the public about colorectal cancer prevention and  
5 screening; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims March of  
7 2024, as "Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the American Cancer Society, and Dr. Jonathan  
10 A. Leighton, MD, FACG, American College of Gastroenterology.

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