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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2026, AS "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Tikoian, Thompson, Appollonio, Famiglietti, Britto,
Raptakis, Mack, Vargas, and Gu

Date Introduced: March 24, 2026

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 of 2026, 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, it was estimated that there will
6 be 158,850 new cases of colon and rectal cancer in the United States and 55,230 deaths from
7 colorectal cancer in 2026, and in Rhode Island, there will be an estimated 490 new cases of
8 colorectal cancer, and 150 deaths from colorectal cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, When colorectal cancer is found early, it has a survival rate of 91 percent,
10 but left undetected, survival rates for colorectal cancer can plummet to 13 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, According to the American Cancer Society, individuals at average risk of
18 colorectal cancer should start regular screening at age 45, while individuals at increased or high
19 risk may need to start screening before age 45, and be screened more often; and

1 WHEREAS, The Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program within the Rhode Island
2 Department of Health maintains the goal that all age-appropriate persons in Rhode Island should
3 have the ability to get screened for colorectal cancer, regardless of insurance status; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2021, our dear friend and colleague, Senator Maryellen Goodwin was
5 honored with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's "National Distinguished
6 Advocacy Award," the organization's highest recognition, for her efforts to educate and bring
7 awareness to colorectal cancer, which included championing the passage of the "Maryellen
8 Goodwin Colorectal Cancer Screening Act" that mandated full coverage for preventive
9 screenings and colonoscopies; and

10 WHEREAS, Working with the legislature, the American Cancer Society and the
11 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network remain committed and dedicated to informing
12 the public about colorectal cancer prevention and screening; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims March of
14 2026, as "Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the American Cancer Society, the American
17 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and the American College of Gastroenterology.

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