

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

By Kumar

A RESOLUTION to designate March 2015 as “Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second-most-common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly 133,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2015, including 3,060 Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, every four minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and every ten minutes, someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, of the nearly 49,000 Americans who will die of colorectal cancer in 2015, 1,220 of them will be Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer is ninety percent when detected in the early stages versus only a ten percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to distant organs; and

WHEREAS, only thirty-nine percent of colorectal cancer patients had their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for colorectal cancers should begin at age fifty; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have a higher incidence of colorectal cancer and should begin screening for colorectal cancer at age forty-five; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of colorectal cancer and the profound benefits of colorectal cancer screening could save thousands of lives annually; indeed, with regular

colorectal cancer screening, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to eighty percent; and

WHEREAS, regular colorectal cancer screening has been ranked as one of the most cost-effective screening interventions available, as colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate March 2015 as “Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month” in Tennessee in order to raise public awareness regarding the importance of early detection of colorectal cancer, and regular screening for the disease by health practitioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.