

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.4700, by Representatives Kenney, Skinner, Hailey, Campbell, Kretz, Hankins, Sells, Herrera, Rolfes, Darneille, Williams, Appleton, Dickerson, Seaquist, Upthegrove, Warnick, Nelson, Hasegawa, Ericks, Hunt, Morrell, Pearson, Kessler, Walsh, Quall, Green, Jarrett, Smith, and VanDeWege

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is second to lung cancer in the number of deaths it causes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In the United States alone, over 100,000 people are diagnosed with and over 49,000 people die of colorectal cancer every year; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that in Washington State 2,800 people are diagnosed with and 940 people will die every year of colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer can affect anyone of any age, race, or sex; nine out of ten diagnoses will occur in people aged 50 and older; men are slightly more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer than women; and African-Americans are 10% more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer than Caucasians and 30% more likely to die of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer starts with a growth (polyp) that is not cancer; screening can find and remove these growths before they develop into cancer; early detection is the best defense against this devastating disease; and regular screening can prevent over half of all colorectal cancer deaths; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends all people be screened starting at age 50 or earlier if you have a family history of colon cancer or polyps; and

WHEREAS, Despite its high rate of incidence, colorectal cancer is one of the most detectable forms of cancer, and, if found early enough, one of the most treatable forms of cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ninety percent of those diagnosed early, while the cancer is still localized, survive more than five years, but sadly, only 37% of all colorectal cancers are detected early enough for survival to occur; and

WHEREAS, When colorectal cancer is diagnosed at a more advanced stage, having spread to the surrounding region, the five-year survival rate drops from 90% to 65%, and when diagnosed at an advanced stage, having spread to distant organs, the five-year survival rate is only 9%; and

WHEREAS, Early detection is still our best defense against this devastating disease and regular screening can prevent over half of all colorectal cancer deaths in the United States, yet, a majority of Americans are not being screened on a regular basis early enough to catch the cancer while it is still localized; and

WHEREAS, In a recent survey, the Centers for Disease Control found that only 40% of all Americans reported having ever used the most basic of screening methods and just 42% reported having used a more advanced screening, compared to 85% of all women who had been screened for breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Low screening rates for colorectal cancer are due to many factors, including a lack of public awareness about colorectal cancer and of the benefits of regular screening, negative attitudes towards the screening procedures, the complete lack of symptoms in most cases, and the absence of social support for openly discussing and doing something about this particular disease; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has designated March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives commend the American Cancer Society for its outstanding work in creating public awareness about colorectal cancer and the benefits of regular screening and urge the citizens of this state to celebrate the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and to become more aware of the risks regarding this disease and the need to get regular screenings for colorectal cancer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the American Cancer Society.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
Resolution 4700 adopted by the House of Representatives  
February 29, 2008

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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk