

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

HEALTH CARE. Expresses the sense of the Louisiana Legislature on the need for colorectal cancer screening examinations.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the citizens of Louisiana recognize the life-saving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and schedule such examinations as deemed appropriate by their physicians.

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer occurring in the United States, with over one hundred forty thousand new patients diagnosed in the single year of 2012; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths, with over fifty thousand patients dying in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer is one in twenty; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of colorectal cancer cases is preventable with routine screening examinations; and

WHEREAS, current screening guidelines recommend that all those persons aged fifty and older obtain routine screening examinations, generally once every ten years; and

WHEREAS, screening guidelines recommend colorectal examinations starting at an earlier age if there is a family history of colorectal cancer or symptoms of colorectal cancer are experienced; and

WHEREAS, less than thirty percent of those for whom colorectal screening

1 examinations are recommended are scheduling such diagnostic examinations; and

2 WHEREAS, colorectal specialists, primarily gastroenterologists, consult with  
3 surgeons to provide state-of-the-art, evidence-based appropriate surgical treatment for  
4 colorectal cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, colorectal specialists work in conjunction with oncologists, radiologists  
6 and other medical professionals to provide the most appropriate and beneficial medical  
7 treatment, resulting in optimal medical outcomes for colorectal cancer patients.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 recognize the life-saving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge  
11 Louisianians to recognize the life-saving benefits of routine colorectal screening  
12 examinations and to schedule colorectal screening examinations as deemed appropriate by  
13 their physicians.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana further recognizes  
15 the critical role of medical specialists, especially those of gastroenterologists, oncologists,  
16 and radiologists, in providing the optimal medical outcomes for colorectal cancer patients  
17 in Louisiana.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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DIGEST

Claitor

SCR No. 15

Urges and requests the citizens of Louisiana to recognize the life-saving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and to schedule such examinations as deemed appropriate by their physicians.