SLS 16RS-1470 **ORIGINAL**

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

HEALTH CARE. Expresses the recognition 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 lifesaving 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 an estimated one hundred thirty-six thousand eight hundred thirty new cases of colon cancer, thirty-nine thousand six hundred ten new cases of rectal cancer, and seven thousand two hundred seventy new cases of anal cancer occurring during 2016; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in men and women and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, with an estimated fifty thousand three hundred ten deaths possible in 2016; and

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

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

WHEREAS, ninety percent of new colorectal cancer cases and ninety-five percent of deaths attributed to colorectal cancer occur in persons over the age of fifty; and

WHEREAS, current screening guidelines recommend that all those persons aged fifty and older obtain routine screening examinations; and

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

WHEREAS, less than thirty percent of those for whom colorectal screening examinations are recommended are scheduling such diagnostic examinations; and

WHEREAS, colorectal specialists provide state-of-the-art surgical treatment for colorectal cancer; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the lifesaving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and lifesaving efforts by colorectal specialists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge Louisianians to recognize the lifesaving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and to schedule colorectal screening examinations as deemed appropriate by their physicians.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

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Requests that the citizens of La. recognize the lifesaving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and schedule such examinations as deemed appropriate by their physicians.