

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGER AND WILLMOTT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the School of Public Health of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans and the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, jointly, to coordinate an initiative to be known as the Louisiana Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and to report findings concerning colorectal cancer prevention efforts to the legislature annually.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the second highest rate of diagnosis of colorectal cancer in the United States and the fourth highest death rate from this form of cancer; and

WHEREAS, reliable estimates indicate that on an annual basis more than two thousand three hundred individuals in Louisiana are diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and more than eight hundred sixty individuals die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer because screening tests find polyps that can be removed before becoming cancerous; and

WHEREAS, screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early in its progression when treatment works best; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if every person aged fifty or older had regular screening tests, as many as sixty percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the five-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is ninety percent, but only thirty-nine percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer screening can effectively reduce incidence of and mortality from this form of cancer, yet one in three adults between the ages of fifty and seventy-five are not up to date with their recommended screening; and

WHEREAS, educational efforts can help convey valuable information to the public concerning methods of prevention and screening, as well as about symptoms for early detection; and

WHEREAS, the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is encouraging groups to take an "eighty percent by 2018" pledge to commit to efforts aimed at increasing the number of people screened for colorectal cancer and eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public health problem.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the School of Public Health of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans and the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, jointly, to coordinate an initiative to be known as the Louisiana Colorectal Cancer Roundtable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the roundtable shall report findings concerning colorectal cancer prevention efforts in this state in the form of a written report to the legislature on or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby affirm the commitment of this state to the goals of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's "eighty percent by 2018" initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans and the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE