

By Senator Aronberg

27-05833-08

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## Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the month of March as "Colon Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, colon cancer is one of the most prevalent, yet in most cases preventable, cancers, and

WHEREAS, among cancer cases in the State of Florida, colon cancer is the second-most-common cause of death among adult men and women, and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have colon or rectal cancer, yet not have any cancer symptoms, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 10,920 new cases of colon cancer will be diagnosed among Floridians and 3,420 will die from the disease during the year 2008, and

WHEREAS, the risk for colon cancer increases with age, with more than 90 percent of all colon and rectal cancers diagnosed in adults age 50 or older, and

WHEREAS, Floridians can significantly lower the number of incidents of colon cancer and deaths from this disease by complying with the American Cancer Society colon and rectal cancer screening guidelines, which includes beginning testing at age 50, and

WHEREAS, approximately 41 percent of Floridians age 50 and older report never having received a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy exam, two of the screening exams recommended by the American Cancer Society, and

WHEREAS, regular screenings may lower death rates by detecting the disease at its earliest and most treatable stages,

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29 and may also prevent some cancers by detecting and removing  
30 polyps, and

31 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society, Florida Division, has  
32 engaged in a comprehensive, integrated approach to significantly  
33 impact colorectal cancer in Florida through the launching of its  
34 "No Excuses Campaign to Defeat Colon Cancer in Florida," focusing  
35 primarily on increasing public awareness, affecting physician  
36 behavior through partnerships with health care organizations, and  
37 advocating for insurance coverage, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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41 That the Florida Senate recognizes the month of March 2008  
42 as "Colon Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida and urges all men  
43 and women to understand the risks associated with colon cancer,  
44 to take preventive steps to minimize those risks, and to undergo  
45 early detection procedures in compliance with the American Cancer  
46 Society's recommended colon cancer screening guidelines.