

Senate Resolution 195

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Lucas of the 26th, Orrock of the 36th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 2025 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) dedicates time
3 and resources to promote colorectal cancer (CRC) awareness; and
- 4 WHEREAS, ASGE represents more than 16,000 gastroenterologists and allied health care
5 professionals around the world who are dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive
6 health through education and advocacy and promoting excellence in gastrointestinal
7 endoscopy; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the number of uninsured or underinsured patients in the United States who have
9 a positive (abnormal) CRC screening test result who get a timely follow-up colonoscopy is
10 just 50 to 70 percent; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the low follow-up colonoscopy rate can be attributed to a diverse and complex
12 mix of barriers or obstacles related to the health care system, policy, and one's socioeconomic
13 status and community; and

14 WHEREAS, CRC is now the leading cause of cancer death in men under 50 and the second
15 leading cause of cancer death in women under 50 in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, CRC has a 90 percent survival rate when detected early enough; and

17 WHEREAS, ASGE recommends that people who have not had colorectal cancer or polyps
18 or who do not have any high-risk factors for CRC should begin getting screened for CRC at
19 the age of 45; and

20 WHEREAS, ASGE is working with Community Health Care Systems, Inc., which is a
21 federally qualified health center that cares for patients in middle Georgia, on a project that
22 is designed to increase the follow-up colonoscopy rate for uninsured and underinsured people
23 who have a positive or abnormal stool-based CRC screening test; and

24 WHEREAS, Community Health Care Systems is identifying and assisting hundreds of
25 uninsured and underinsured patients to get screened for CRC using a stool-based DNA test
26 and to get a follow-up colonoscopy if it's necessary at no cost to the patients; and

27 WHEREAS, ASGE and Community Health Care Systems will support these patients with
28 professional navigators from Horizons Community Solutions who will guide them through
29 the full continuum of care at no cost to the patients; and

30 WHEREAS, ASGE and Community Health Care Systems are collaborating on this project
31 with physicians and allied health care professionals; patient navigators; legislators and
32 regulators; state and local advocacy organizations such as the Georgia CRC Roundtable,
33 Georgia CORE, and Fight CRC!; and community leaders; and

34 WHEREAS, gastroenterologists perform colonoscopies to prevent or detect CRC by
35 removing colon polyps; and

36 WHEREAS, a follow-up colonoscopy is required after a positive non-colonoscopy screening
37 test result to derive the benefits of screening; and

38 WHEREAS, there are several other recommended options for CRC screening; and

39 WHEREAS, offering patients screening options can help increase patient adherence to
40 screening.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize March 2025 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and encourage eligible
43 citizens to consult their health care providers and begin regular screenings.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASGE's project has the potential to lead to the
45 development of a public policy model and a toolkit that can be used to increase the follow-up
46 colonoscopy rate for underserved people across the United States and has the potential to
47 save countless lives.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
50 press.