

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 11

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), PACE, SMITH (85), MORGAN,  
NORR, MCCANN BEATTY AND SWEARINGEN (Co-sponsors).

0341L.011

1           **WHEREAS**, colon cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States,  
2 currently attacking 1 in 20 adults; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, approximately 145,000 new cases of colon cancer are diagnosed each year,  
5 with an estimated 50,000 of those diagnosed dying of the disease; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, with early detection by screening colonoscopy, this cancer is extremely  
8 preventable because it almost always begins as a polyp which presents in the colon for months  
9 or even years before actual cancer develops; and

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11           **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that as many as half of the people at risk for colon cancer,  
12 those age 50 and older, are not using the powerful tools now available to avoid dying of colon  
13 cancer or even prevent the disease; and

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15           **WHEREAS**, experts estimate the number of colon cancer deaths each year could  
16 potentially drop by 50% if all Americans 50 and older followed the American Cancer Society's  
17 colon cancer screening guidelines; and

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19           **WHEREAS**, sadly, less than 50% of colon cancers are currently found in the earliest and  
20 most treatable stage; and

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22           **WHEREAS**, colon cancer hits African Americans harder than any other ethnic group in  
23 the United States, so regular screening is particularly important, with not only an increased risk  
24 for the disease, but are more likely to be diagnosed when cancer is advanced. African Americans  
25 are also more likely to die from colon cancer than any other ethnic group for reasons not yet  
26 completely clear; and

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28           **WHEREAS**, some women hold the dangerous belief that colon cancer is a man's disease,  
29 so they skip early detection tests. In reality, both men and women are equally at risk for colon  
30 cancer; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, public awareness to the risk factors and risk reduction measures that can  
33 be taken by persons most at risk will undoubtedly save thousands of lives each year:

34           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
35 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
36 concurring therein, hereby designate the week of March 24 to March 30, 2013, as "Colon Cancer  
37 Awareness Week" in Missouri; and

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39           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and  
40 recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe Colon Cancer Awareness Week  
41 through activities which will increase awareness to colon cancer disease, its risk factors, and  
42 prevention and risk reduction measures which can be taken.

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