

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), PACE, McGEOGHEGAN,
FUNDERBURK, WALLINGFORD, SATER AND BROWN (50) (Co-sponsors).

4912L.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:

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35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby designate the week of March 25 to March 31, 2012, as "Colon Cancer
38 Awareness Week" in Missouri; and

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

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