

Reps. Barnett, Valentine, Cushingberry, Warren, Switalski and Donigan offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 50.

A resolution recognizing March 2009 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, March has long been recognized across America as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in an effort to raise public awareness about colorectal cancer. It is a serious condition that affects many Michiganians; and

Whereas, Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in Michigan for both men and women. The American Cancer Society estimates that 1,660 Michigan men and women will die of colorectal cancer in 2009; and

Whereas, The American Cancer Society further estimates that 5,100 additional Michiganians will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2009. Michigan presently ranks 20th in the nation in colorectal cancer deaths; and

Whereas, Regular screening allows colorectal cancer to be detected early when treatment is most effective. The Michigan Cancer Consortium recommends colorectal cancer screening for men and women starting at age 50; and

Whereas, The survival rate for people with colorectal cancers found early is more than 90 percent. Only 40 percent of colorectal cancers are found early while the cancer is found at the local and most treatable stage. Despite the demonstrated benefits of regular screening and early detection, only 66 percent of Michigan adults over age 50 report being screened; and

Whereas, Michigan citizens can take preventative steps to reduce their risk of colorectal cancer including getting screened regularly and having polyps removed, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy weight, eating a diet rich in fruit, vegetables, and whole grains, and refraining from smoking and the excessive use of alcohol; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body recognize March 2009 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge all Michiganians to use this month as an opportunity to educate themselves about colorectal cancer and take proactive steps to reduce their risk and get appropriate screening.