

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 359

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should carry out a national public awareness campaign to educate American men and women with respect to colorectal cancer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FROST, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SERRANO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should carry out a national public awareness campaign to educate American men and women with respect to colorectal cancer.

Whereas, in 1998, an estimated 131,600 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer;

Whereas about 56,500 individuals will die of the disease, making it the number three cancer killer of men and women in the United States;

Whereas colorectal cancer strikes men and women in equal numbers, despite public perceptions that it is a man's disease;

Whereas colorectal cancer strikes more frequently among certain minority populations, and these groups have lower survival rates;

Whereas average survival rates for colorectal cancer are over 90 percent if the cancer is detected at an early, localized stage;

Whereas the recent discovery of a familial colorectal cancer gene gives new options to individuals for assessing their risk and taking advantage of preventive measures;

Whereas most colorectal cancer develops from benign polyps and develops slowly over many years, providing a window of opportunity for detection and treatment;

Whereas current screening methods can detect precancerous polyps and actually prevent the onset of cancer;

Whereas the Congress recently enacted historic health care reforms which, for the first time, authorized coverage for preventive colorectal cancer screening procedures for Medicare beneficiaries; and

Whereas current colorectal cancer screening rates are very low, with fewer than 20 percent of at-risk Americans taking advantage of regular screening: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) strongly urges the Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services to establish a national public
4 awareness campaign to educate American men and
5 women about their risk for colorectal cancer, preven-

1 tive screening options, and the importance of early
2 detection for this disease; and

3 (2) encourages the Secretary to work closely
4 with groups that have expertise in various aspects of
5 colorectal cancer in designing and carrying out this
6 campaign.

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