

House Concurrent Resolution No. 33

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

4724L.011

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby designate the week of March 23 to March 29, 2014, 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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