

Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer of the colon or rectum is 5.5 percent for men and 5.1 percent for women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, if 80 percent of adults were screened for colon cancer, 203,000 fewer people will die by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early stages versus only a 10 percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 2,230 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Alabama this year and 950 people will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, deaths from colorectal cancer occur disproportionately among those who are underserved or underinsured; and

WHEREAS, when detected early the five-year survival rates for colon cancer is 90 however, only 39 of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at this stage, mostly due to low rates of screening; and

WHEREAS, five-year survival rates decline dramatically when colorectal cancer is diagnosed in later stages; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of colon cancer and the means to prevent it could save the lives hundreds of Alabamians every year; and

WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the month of March as

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama and recognize the important of colorectal screenings.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 27th day of March 2019.



Kay Ivey, Governor