

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 24

By: Leftwich, Adelson,  
Aldridge, Anderson,  
Ballenger, Barrington,  
Bass, Bingman, Branan,  
Brogdon, Brown, Burrage,  
Coates, Coffee, Corn,  
Crain, Crutchfield, Easley,  
Eason McIntyre, Ellis,  
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,  
Halligan, Ivester, Johnson  
(Constance), Johnson  
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,  
Lamb, Laster, Lerblance,  
Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers,  
Newberry, Nichols, Paddack,  
Reynolds, Rice, Russell,  
Schulz, Sparks,  
Stanislawski, Sweeden,  
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution recognizing March 2009 "National Colon  
Cancer Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma; and  
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer  
death among men and women in Oklahoma and the United States. Colon  
cancer is the third most common cancer in Oklahoma. It is estimated  
that in 2008 physicians diagnosed more than 148,000 new cases of  
colon cancer in the United States. The disease is suspected to have  
killed more than 49,000 individuals in the United States in 2008;  
and

WHEREAS, if everyone 50 years of age or older would have regular colon cancer screening tests, at least one-third of colon cancer deaths could be prevented each year because of early detection and treatment. Only half of the people aged 50 and older, when screening is recommended, have received the recommended tests; and

WHEREAS, adopting a healthy diet at a young age can significantly reduce the risk of developing colon cancer. March has also been designated as "National Nutrition Awareness Month", and prevention of colon cancer is highly dependent on dietary factors; and

WHEREAS, colon cancer can almost always be cured if detected in its early stages. Regular screening tests detect colon polyps before they become cancerous, saving lives. When detected early, colon cancer is often preventable and can be successfully treated more than 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, in Oklahoma, almost 1,900 new cases of colon cancer were diagnosed, and more than 700 died of the disease in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is taking a leadership role in educating the public on the methods of prevention and symptoms for early detection of colon cancers; and

WHEREAS, state governments have a leadership role to play in fighting colon cancer through public education and improved awareness of early detection through screening. Screening rates are 40% higher in states that have passed meaningful coverage laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes March 2009 as "National Colon Cancer Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Adopted by the Senate the 23rd day of March, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate