

2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, the American Cancer Society reports that colon and rectum cancer is
3 the 3rd–most–common cancer among men and women and the 2nd–leading cause of
4 cancer death in the United States; and

5 Whereas, this year there will be 147,500 new cases of colon and rectum cancer
6 and 57,100 deaths from colon and rectum cancer in the United States and more than
7 2,900 new cases of colon and rectum cancer and 1,100 deaths from colon and rectum
8 cancer in Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, in Wisconsin, African–Americans have higher colorectal cancer
10 incidence and mortality rates and thus should be especially vigilant in informing
11 themselves of their risks and need for screening; and

12 Whereas, the American Cancer Society recommends that beginning at age 50
13 both men and women should follow one of these 5 screening options: yearly fecal
14 occult blood test; sigmoidoscopy every 5 years; yearly fecal occult blood test plus

1 flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years (combination preferred over either test alone);
2 colonoscopy every 10 years; or double–contrast barium enema every 5 years; and

3 Whereas, the American Cancer Society reports that survival from colon and
4 rectum cancer is inversely related to the stage of cancer at the time of detection and
5 the 5–year survival rate is increased to 90% when the cancer is detected early and
6 confined; and

7 Whereas, colorectal cancer is one of the most curable of all cancers if detected
8 in its earliest stages; and

9 Whereas, it is in the public interest to promote public awareness of the benefits
10 and values of early detection, prevention, and treatment of colon and rectum cancer;
11 and

12 Whereas, improved public awareness of the disparity in funding for colon and
13 rectum cancer research, as compared to the research funding for other major fatal
14 diseases, can help bring a halt to this inequity and assist in saving lives; and

15 Whereas, it is appropriate for the state of Wisconsin to join with its citizens,
16 their families, and loved ones throughout the state in recognizing the importance of
17 this disease; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
19 Wisconsin legislature proclaim the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness
20 Month to promote early detection, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer and
21 to encourage people to be screened according to the American Cancer Society’s
22 guidelines.

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(END)