



2011 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

1 **Relating to:** declaring April 2011 as esophageal cancer awareness month.

2 Whereas, esophageal cancer is the fastest growing cancer diagnosis in the
3 United States, increasing more than 400 percent in the past 20 years; and

4 Whereas, esophageal cancer kills one American every 36 minutes each and
5 every day; and

6 Whereas, esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than
7 one in five patients surviving five years; and

8 Whereas, esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually
9 discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

10 Whereas, esophageal cancer in the U.S. is most often caused by persistent
11 heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are
12 unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several
13 weeks or months; and

14 Whereas, esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware
15 that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain they suffer can be signs of

1 GERD and reason to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their medical care
2 professional; and

3 Whereas, esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when acid from the
4 stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous
5 condition known as Barrett’s Esophagus which can lead to a 125–fold increase in a
6 patient’s risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

7 Whereas, esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its
8 precursor, Barrett’s Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative techniques;
9 and

10 Whereas, the Esophageal Cancer Action Network, ECAN, is working to
11 improve public awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and supports
12 progress in early detection and treatment of esophageal cancer; and

13 Whereas, esophageal cancer awareness along with improvements in
14 prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies will enhance the health and
15 well–being of all Americans; now, therefore, be it

16 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
17 legislature declares April 2011 as esophageal cancer awareness month.

18 (END)