



**BLUE STAR**  
STATES

## **Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation Request**

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of Fight Colorectal Cancer, we urge your support in proclaiming March 2015 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in South Carolina.

As you may know, colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented through the use of screening tests, yet colorectal cancer remains the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States. Each year, tens of thousands of lives are lost to this disease.

Despite these staggering numbers, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable, treatable, and beatable forms of cancer, especially when it is caught early. Wider use of proven screening tests could save more than half of these lives.

We ask you to help our state fight this disease by proclaiming March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging your residents to help reduce the number of lives lost to colorectal cancer. They can do so by speaking with their doctor about getting screened; by spreading the word that the disease is preventable, treatable, and beatable; and by wearing and/or displaying the Colorectal Cancer Blue Star of Hope, which represents the eternal memory of those whose lives have been lost to colorectal cancer and the shining hope for a future free of the disease.

While progress has been made, much is left to do. We hope that we can count on your support to let your constituents know that together we can win the fight against colorectal cancer.

We hope you will find the enclosed draft language helpful in crafting a proclamation declaring March 2015 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in South Carolina.

Thank you for considering this lifesaving request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Heinsen, CGRN  
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## BLUE STAR STATES

### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States;

WHEREAS colorectal cancer affects men and women equally;

WHEREAS every 3 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer;

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

WHEREAS only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage;

WHEREAS the survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 10 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs;

WHEREAS if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 70 percent;

WHEREAS African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives are significantly less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer compared to Whites;

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; 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, Nikki R. Haley, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as: COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina, in the City of Greenwood, this 1st day of March, 2015