

# State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

## COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

2012

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

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

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

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; 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, of the 51,690 United States residents and 1,530 North Carolina residents expected to die of colorectal cancer in 2012, early detection could have saved more than half of these lives; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 143,450 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 51,690 new cases will be diagnosed from North Carolina in 2012; and

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

WHEREAS, regular colorectal cancer screening has been ranked as one of the most cost-effective screening interventions available, with the potential to save 40,000 lives a year; and

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 decrease by up to 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have incidence rates more than 20 percent higher and mortality rates about 45 percent higher than rates in whites; and

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; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of this cancer, and the means to prevent it, could save the lives of tens of thousands of people in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable; and

WHEREAS, observing 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, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2012, as "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirteenth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.