

Testimony for Senate Bill 16 in Kentucky

Given by Whitney Jones, MD on February 3rd, 2021

Thank you and the entire legislature: 13 years of bipartisan support/engagement, Thank you House Health and Welfare Committee and thank your Chairwoman Mouser.

My name is doctor Whitney Jones. I am the Founder of the colon cancer prevention project and the current chair of the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program (KCCSP) Advisory Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senator Dr. Alvarado's Senate bill 16, The KCCSP 2021 Update Bill

Since its inception in 2008, The KCCSP and its designated advisory committee have engaged with 2 primary goals: first overseeing a state-based program providing CRC screening covering – colonoscopy, cutting edge take at home stool testing, and if indicated genetic testing - for AT RISK and uninsured and underinsured Kentuckians. Second, and more broadly, increasing evidence-based CRC screening rates for all Kentuckians. The KCCSP has been a cornerstone in our commonwealth's nation leading improvements in CRC screening rates by removing barriers to access.

The KY numbers bear repeating around CRC over the past 20 yrs: From 49th to 22nd in screening rates. Incidence is down 27% and mortality down over 30%. Translated, each and every year 250 fewer CRC deaths because of earlier detection and 400 CRC cases are totally prevented through polyp removal.

The updates of the program implemented 12 years ago will further position us to lead the nation in CRC screening improvement leader for the next decade, as we re-tool to: **catch up** from Covid/**on-board** the 45-49 NOW eligible for screening and **leave no group behind**.

The updates include:

1. Adding to the committee critical agency representatives: Medicaid and the Department of insurance, including annual reporting from Medicaid on screening statistics to the Committee.
2. Clarify the financial structure to maintain funds designated to the program to remain in the program, from both public and private sources.
3. Create a pathway to allow Dept of Transportation proceeds from a proposed and Transportation Cabinet approved colon cancer screening prevention license plate to add to program funds from these sales.
4. Finally, we are going to highlight a major goal of the program –PREVENTION- by adding it to the program name: KY Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Program.



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Thank you again on behalf of the KCCSPP program advisory Committee and the Kentuckians that this critical program serves. Please support SB 16 and consider voting Yes.

Amend KRS 214.540 to change Colon Cancer Screening Program to the Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Program; amend KRS 214.543 to change Colon Cancer Screening Program fund to Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Program fund; require the fund to include funds distributed by the Transportation Cabinet from sales of special cancer prevention license plates; require funds to be solely used for colon cancer screening and prevention; amend KRS 214.544 to change Colon Cancer Screening Advisory Committee to Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Advisory Committee; change membership of the advisory committee; create new section of KRS Chapter 205 to require the Department for Medicaid Services to present statistics on cancer services related to colorectal cancer annually and upon request;