

February 6, 2018
The Honorable Ken Cooley
Assembly Rules Committee, Chair
California State Assembly
State Capital Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 163 (Flora and Baker) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Cooley

The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4) is pleased to co-sponsor ACR 163 declaring March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4) is a nonprofit organization (501(c)3) established to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality rates associated with the disease. The C4 mission is to save lives and reduce suffering from colorectal cancer in all Californians.

As you are well aware, colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Californians, resulting in 14,400 new cases and 5,300 deaths expected in 2018. A death from colon cancer is truly a preventable tragedy since effective screening is available that can prevent most deaths from colon cancer. (1) If 70 Californians are convinced to start a colon cancer screening program, one of these seventy will have their colon cancer either prevented or found soon enough to be cured.

Colorectal cancer screening is the most effective and cost-effective cancer screening available. It is more cost-effective than breast or prostate cancer screening. It is also understandably more cost-effective than colorectal cancer treatment. Moreover, colorectal cancer screening is the only cancer screening effort that has been proven to save health care dollars in the screened population. Despite the lifesaving and cost-saving benefits, screening rates remain low in California.

Designating March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month will help in a nationwide endeavor to spread the message of the importance of early detection and screening for colorectal cancer. In California, many organizations and community groups will offer public education and awareness events. This resolution will help us in this effort throughout 2018. More Californians will be screened and more people will be spared suffering from colon cancer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel S. Anderson'.

Daniel S. Anderson, MD, FACP
President, C4
2253 Soledad Rancho Rd
San Diego CA 92109
stonewallanderson3@gmail.com

1. Screening for colorectal cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA*. 2016;315(23):2564-2575. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.5989

California Colorectal Cancer Coalition

www.CaColonCancer.org