

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Cooley
Assembly rules Committee, Chair
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACR 36 - Support

Dear Assemblymember Cooley

The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4) is pleased to co-sponsor ACR 36 Levine 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. We are very proud to be a co-sponsor of ACR 36 with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN).

As you are well aware, colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Californians. A death from colon cancer is truly a preventable tragedy since effective screening is available that can prevent most deaths from colon cancer. (1)

Colorectal cancer screening is the most 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. This state is 14th in the nation in screening for colorectal cancer.

Designating March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is 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 2017. 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
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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