A Proclamation

Whereas, Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure; and

Whereas, Colorectal cancer affects men and women equally; and

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

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

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; and

Whereas, The national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is 80 percent of Americans ages 50 and older screened by the year 2018; 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 plummet by up to 70 percent; 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 Caucasians; and

Whereas, It is critical that all people, of all ages, know the signs and symptoms of the disease; 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, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2019, to be,

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

By His Excellency

Charles Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts