

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 13, 2021

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 196.

This resolution urges the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to lower its recommended colorectal cancer screening age from 50 to 45. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in disease prevention and evidence-based medicine.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women. Individuals born in the 1990s are twice as likely to develop colon cancer and four times as likely to develop rectal cancer compared to individuals born in the 1950s.

According to the CDC, 141,425 new cases of colorectal cancer were reported in the U.S. and 52,547 people died of this cancer in 2017. The American Cancer Society (ACS) lowered the recommended age for cancer screening for individuals who possess average cancer risk factors. Colorectal cancer is occurring at an increasing rate among younger adults. According to the ACS, for individuals who possess average cancer risk factors, beginning colorectal screening screenings at the age of 45 will result in less colorectal cancer deaths.