

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3588

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

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Hearing Date: April 27, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Karen Kay

Self retired

Robinson, TX

My dad died from colon cancer 7 months after diagnosis. He did not have early detection. Early detection can prevent others from death from this horrible disease. This bill covers screenings at age 45. For many this is still not early enough, but it is a great improvement.

Randy York

Self, Registered Nurse

El Paso, TX

Hello & Thank you for accepting comments on HB3588.

Colorectal cancer screening is extremely important for numerous reasons. As Americans, we have the power to further extend help to those who need additional funding for healthcare needs. It is an extremely important measure to take to continue to advance and improve funding for colorectal cancer screening. When Americans are forced to pay additional for definitive diagnostic screening (such as colonoscopy or CT imaging), it places a large barrier to access to health. Many Americans do not have the money to allocate for tests such as these. When Colorectal cancer is caught early, its survivability is significantly increased. The earlier and the easier it is for patients to access screening, the higher the chances someone has to defeating colorectal cancer is!

On a personal note, I am a US Army soldier. My spouse was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer, a very rare form, at the age of 25. Not only is he further proof that there is a spike in younger Americans diagnosed with colorectal cancer, but also proof that with appropriate funding and access to care, mortality is significantly decreased. Because we have access to care, my spouse has been able to significantly increase his chances of survival of a very rare and malignant form of cancer.

With help, the entire American population can have the same access to healthcare and we can advance the survivability of a very preventable & deadly disease called colorectal cancer.

Thank you for taking time reading this comment & advocating for further support, education and funding of colorectal cancer screening!

LaTashia Kiel, Dr., RN

self, nurse, professor, Kiel Colon Cancer Foundation

Pflugerville, TX

My name is LaTashia Kiel. This bill is near and dear to my heart because of my kids and my husband. You see, my husband lost his beloved mother to colon cancer. My kids, 5 years & 7 months, never got to meet their grandmother. She died a miserable, despicable death. One that could have been avoided. As we watched the life drain from her body in a year's time while she fought through multiple surgeries, chemo, and radiation, we couldn't help but wonder if things could have been different. I can't explain the sting of learning that a simple colonoscopy could have saved her life. A procedure that has saved many lives from the devastating affects of colon cancer. The numbers don't lie. More and more people, specifically young adults, are being diagnosed

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with colon cancer at alarming rates. Until research pinpoints the exact reason why this is happening, we can do something about it. We can get people the screening they need. You can help us do the right thing. You can make sure other families get to live out their best lives with their loved ones. You can help by approving HB 3588.