

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

January 30, 2025

Dear Mr. President:

We thank you for previously recognizing March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month to help bring attention to the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women in the United States.¹ We ask that you once again **show your support by recognizing March 2025 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and by lighting the White House blue, the official color of colorectal cancer, to honor those we have lost and those fighting this disease.**

This time of year, the colorectal cancer community begins to prepare for the month of March, a time when we come together to shed light on the devastating impact of this disease. March was officially designated National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month by the House, Senate and White House in 1999 after extensive advocacy by the colorectal cancer community. It is an opportunity for advocates to share their experiences, for physicians to speak to their patients about colorectal cancer, and for the colorectal cancer community to come together and raise awareness.

Colorectal cancer is often thought of as a disease that only affects older people, but the face of colorectal cancer is changing. Over the last four decades, colorectal cancer has been steadily increasing in young people, and as of 2024 it became the leading cause of cancer death for men under the age of 50.² By 2030, it is on track to become the number one cancer killer of all people under age 50.³ Additionally, younger patients are often diagnosed at a later stage with the disease is more difficult to treat. We don't know why we are seeing increased diagnoses in this population, so it is critical that we help raise awareness about this worrying trend.

Colorectal cancer does not affect all Americans equally. Rural Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer than those in urban areas.⁴ According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer incidence is highest among American Indian and Alaska Native individuals followed by non-Hispanic black individuals.⁵ Furthermore, colorectal cancer is expected to account for 12% of cancer deaths among Hispanic men and 9% of cancer deaths for Hispanic women.⁶ This doesn't have to be our reality.

¹ <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/about/key-statistics.html#:~:text=In%20the%20United%20States%2C%20colorectal,about%2052%2C550%20deaths%20during%202023.>

² <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures-2023.pdf>

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2778204>

⁴ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures-2023.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6614a1.htm>

⁶ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/cancer-facts-and-figures-for-hispanics-and-latinos/2024/2024-2026-cancer-facts-and-figures-for-hispanics-and-latinos.pdf>

Colorectal cancer is unique in that if it is detected early through screening, it can be effectively treated through surgery and/or chemotherapy and radiation or even prevented completely. Unfortunately, far too many Americans are not getting screened. While screening rates vary among subgroups, it is estimated that only roughly 60% of the average-risk, screening-eligible population are up to date with colorectal cancer screening.⁷ It is estimated that tens of thousands of colorectal cancer deaths could be avoided if people are screened appropriately.⁸

The undersigned organizations represent thousands of colorectal cancer patients, survivors, and advocates. We are dedicated to striving for a world without colorectal cancer and we urge you to join us. Please continue to recognize March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in 2025 and light the White House blue to honor the colorectal cancer community and help us raise awareness around this disease. Together, we can change the statistics around colorectal cancer.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Fight Colorectal Cancer
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Radiology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons
AMSURG
Association of Black Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists (ABGH)
California Colorectal Cancer Coalition
CancerCare
Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer (CGA-IGC)
Colon Cancer Prevention Project
Colon Cancer Stars
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Colorectal Cancer Equity Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education
GH Foundation
GI Cancers Alliance
Global Colon Cancer Association
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
Man Up to Cancer
Missouri Colorectal Cancer Roundtable
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

⁷ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2816965>

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1047279714005122?via%3Dihub>

Nebraska Cancer Coalition
PALTOWN Development Foundation/COLON TOWN
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Raymond Foundation
Ruesch Center for the Cure of GI Cancers
Tell5Friends
The Gloria Borges WunderGlo Foundation