

# FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

FightCRC.org

## ISSUE:

# REMOVE BARRIERS TO COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

**Ask: Co-sponsor the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, HR 1017 / S \_\_\_\_\_.**

Medicare covers screening colonoscopies at 100%, but if polyps are removed during the screening procedure, beneficiaries become responsible for paying coinsurance of roughly 20%. This additional and unexpected cost is a major deterrent to screening seniors, the population at highest risk for CRC.

This issue is a top priority for Fight Colorectal Cancer, as it has been for the past three Congresses. Most recently, it received 328 combined co-sponsors in the 114th Congress (HR 1220/S 624).

**Ask: Protect 100% insurance coverage for colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) replacement legislation.**

The passage of the ACA required new health plans to cover recommended preventive services without cost sharing. One in three Americans is not up-to-date with CRC screenings, and one in 20 will be diagnosed with CRC during their lifetime. Maintaining coverage for CRC screening is a major opportunity to reduce the death toll of the second-leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined. From 2011 (when the law took effect) until 2013, an additional 8,400 seniors (8% more than before) were diagnosed with early-stage colorectal cancer (as a result of screening), researchers estimated [1].

**Ask: Appropriate \$70 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) to provide states with the necessary funding to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in all 50 states.**

Increasing funding would enable more states and underserved communities to offer screening programs, and as a result, increase nationwide screening rates. In 2015, 31 grants were awarded to implement evidence-based interventions to include education, screening and follow-up services. This program's funding provides support to our country's most vulnerable populations. The CRCCP has provided almost 55,000 colorectal cancer screening exams and diagnosed 165 colorectal cancers and 8,441 cases of precancerous polyps. Grants have been awarded to 24 state health departments, as well as 6 universities, and one American Indian tribe to increase colorectal screening.

**For more information, please email [Advocate@FightCRC.org](mailto:Advocate@FightCRC.org)**

[1] Affordable Care Act Changes To Medicare Led To Increased Diagnoses Of Early-Stage Colorectal Cancer Among Seniors Health Aff January 2017 36:1101-107;

