FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

get behind a cure.

QUICK FACTS

- Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the **second-leading cause of cancer death** in the U.S. among men and women combined.

- It's estimated that there will be 145,600 new cases and **51,020 deaths from CRC in 2019**.

- Currently, there is **no cure for CRC** that has spread to other organs (late stage); however, CRC can be prevented with screening and if detected in early stages, most patients can be cured by surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy.

- Over **30 million Americans** (50-75 years of age) have not been screened for colorectal cancer.

SUMMARY OF OUR ASKS

☐ **Cosponsor (H.R. _____/S. _____) the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act** which would correct a loophole in current Medicare policy requiring Medicare beneficiaries to pay co-insurance if polyps are detected and removed during a screening colonoscopy.

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

☐ **Increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to $41 billion, including $6.5 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in FY 2020.**

☐ **Fund the Department of Defense (DoD) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at $60 million for FY 2020 and ensure CRC research continues to be included as eligible for funding under this program.**

☐ **Support report language in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill to encourage the NCI to research why the incidence rate of colorectal cancer is increasing in the early-age onset population.**

Fight Colorectal Cancer is the leading advocacy voice for over one million colorectal cancer survivors. We ensure the fight against colorectal cancer is a priority among our Congressional leaders. As a community, we stand united, fighting for prevention services, access to care, and research funding.

For more information, please email *Advocate@FightCRC.org*

13TH ANNUAL CALL-ON CONGRESS

INVEST IN COLORECTAL CANCER RESEARCH

▶ **ASK: Increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to $41 billion, an increase of $2 billion above FY19. Increase funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to $6.5 billion for FY 2020.**

- NIH and NCI need an increased and predictable federal investment to continue to make progress in the development of new treatments and cures for cancer and other diseases.

- Despite colorectal cancer being the second leading cause of death for men and women combined, colorectal cancer research funding at NCI is going down.

▶ **ASK: Support report language in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill to urge the NCI to research why the incidence rate of colorectal cancer is increasing in the early-age onset population.**

- Early-age onset colorectal cancer rates (under 55 years of age) have been rising significantly in the last few decades and we don't know why.

- In response to this trend, earlier this year the American Cancer Society lowered the age at which it recommends beginning colorectal screening from 50 to 45.

- This report language directs NCI to focus resources on research in this area to expand our knowledge of colorectal cancer and help advance the development of improved screening modalities and treatment.

▶ **ASK: Fund the Department of Defense (DoD) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at $60 million for FY 2020. Ensure colorectal cancer research continues to be included as eligible for funding under this program.**

- The PRCRP funds research for 15 different cancer types, including colorectal cancer and cancer in children, adolescents, and young adults. These grants are focused on militarily-relevant risk factors associated with cancer.

- The PRCRP funds high-risk, high-reward science that is not funded by NIH or NCI.

- From 2009 to 2016, the PRCRP funded over $19 million in colorectal cancer research. However, eligibility of colorectal cancer to receive research funding under the PRCRP is not guaranteed - Congress must continue to include it each year.

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REMOVE BARRIERS TO SCREENING

▶ **ASK: Cosponsor the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, H.R. _____ / S. _____**

- Medicare covers screening colonoscopies at 100 percent but if polyps are removed during the screening procedure, beneficiaries become responsible for paying coinsurance of roughly 20 percent (upwards of $300). This additional and unexpected cost is a major deterrent to screening seniors, the population at highest risk for colorectal cancer (CRC).

- According to a recent analysis, closing the loophole with this bill would save Medicare $525 million over 10 years and prevent upwards of 2,000 colorectal cancer cases due to proper and timely screening.

- In the 115th Congress, the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act had 305 House and 61 Senate cosponsors. In this Congress, there are over 100 new Members of Congress in the House and Senate, and our goal is to get 80% of them to cosponsor the bill.

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

- The program works with state health departments, universities, and American Indian tribes to implement evidence-based interventions including education, screening, and follow-up services.

- The CRCCP has worked with over 500 clinics across the U.S. to serve over one million patients, increasing screening rates by an average of 8.3 percentage points in just two years, saving lives and money.

- Increasing funding would enable more states and underserved communities to offer screening programs to our country's most vulnerable populations, and as a result, increase nationwide screening rates.

For more information, please email *Advocate@FightCRC.org*