

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

January 20, 2026

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 2026 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.**

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined. It 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 These are Americans in the prime of their lives, building careers, raising families, and contributing meaningfully to their communities, who never imagined cancer would be part of their story. These younger patients are often diagnosed at a later stage when 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.

Each year as March approaches, the colorectal cancer community mobilizes to bring urgent attention to this disease that continues to take far too many lives. In 1999, following sustained advocacy by patients, survivors, and clinicians, the House, Senate, and White House formally recognized March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month for the first time. Since then, March has served as a powerful national moment for advocates to share their stories, for physicians to engage patients in meaningful conversations about risk and screening, and for the broader colorectal cancer community to unite around prevention, early detection, and saving lives. We respectfully urge the Administration to recognize March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, reaffirming a national commitment to awareness, prevention, screening, and early detection, and helping ensure that more Americans are reached with lifesaving information and care.

Colorectal cancer awareness, screening, and prevention strongly align with the White House's Make America Healthy Again initiative, which emphasizes prevention, early detection, and reducing the burden of chronic disease through proactive health strategies. Colorectal cancer is one of just a few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, and when detected early through screening, it can be effectively treated with surgery and or chemotherapy and radiation.

¹ American Cancer Society. Key Statistics for Colorectal Cancer. Updated 2025. Accessed December 2025. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

² American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2023-2025. American Cancer Society; 2022. <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 Siegel RL, Wagle NS, Cercek A, Smith RA, Jemal A. Colorectal cancer statistics, 2023. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. 2023;73(3):233-254. doi:[10.3322/caac.21772](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21772)

Yet far too many Americans are not being screened. It is estimated that fewer than two thirds of average risk, screening eligible individuals are up to date with colorectal cancer screening.⁴ It is estimated that tens of thousands of colorectal cancer deaths could be avoided if all eligible Americans were screened appropriately.⁵ Unlike most other cancers, colorectal cancer offers a unique opportunity not only to detect disease early, but to prevent a cancer diagnosis altogether. Declaring March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month would reinforce the Administration's commitment to prevention and help ensure more Americans can live longer, healthier lives through timely screening and prevention.

The undersigned organizations represent thousands of colorectal cancer patients, survivors, and advocates. Far too many lives are being lost to this preventable and treatable disease, including a growing number of younger adults facing early onset colorectal cancer. Sustained leadership, attention, and investment into colorectal cancer from the White House can help save lives. Please continue to formally recognize March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in 2026 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
AliveandKick'n
American College of Gastroenterology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
Big Mike's Bottom Line
California Colorectal Cancer Coalition
Cheeky Charity
Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer (CGA-IGC)
Colon Cancer Prevention Project
Colon Cancer Stars
Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Colorectal Cancer Coalition
Colorectal Cancer Equity Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Florida Gastroenterologic Society
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
GH Foundation
GI Cancers Alliance

⁴ King SC. Baseline Estimates of Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Adults Aged 45 to 75 Years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022. *Prev Chronic Dis.* 2025;22. doi:10.5888/pcd22.250175

⁵ Meester RGS, Doubeni CA, Lansdorp-Vogelaar I, et al. Colorectal cancer deaths attributable to nonuse of screening in the United States. *Annals of Epidemiology.* 2015;25(3):208-213.e1. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2014.11.011

Global Colon Cancer Association
Henry McCann Memorial Colorectal Cancer Foundation
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
Man Up To Cancer
Mike Check Yur Colon
Nevada Cancer Coalition
PALTOWN Development Foundation/COLONTOWN
Raymond Foundation
Ruesch Center for the Cure of GI Cancers
Tell 5 Friends Foundation
The Gloria Borges WunderGlo Foundation
United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.
Yi Min Teo Nutrition