

Colorado colorectal cancer screening bill is off to a flying start

The Colorado Cancer Coalition's legislative effort to ensure younger, more accessible Colorectal Cancer screening across Colorado kicked off last week with the unanimous passage of HB1103 through the House Health & Insurance Committee. HB1103 seeks to reduce the average risk screening age from 50 to 45 and eliminate copay for colonoscopies following a positive non-invasive test (such as FIT).

Sincere thanks to so many of you who took the time to get in touch with your local legislators to press home the need for HB1103. Lawmaker response has been incredibly supportive across the board – and the aisle – and that's all down to you getting your voices heard. We still have a long way to go before HB1103 becomes law and we will keep you posted as news and events unfold. In the meantime, here's a brief round-up of news and events so far.....

HOUSE HEALTH & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

HB1103's primary co-sponsors, Representatives Janet Buckner and Perry Will, introduced the bill to the House Health & Insurance Committee on January 29, with testimony from Andi Dwyer, UC Cancer Center, survivors Dusty Laird and Scott Wilson and ACS CAN government relations director for Colorado, RJ Ours. The Committee passed HB1103 unanimously (10-0), with insurers remaining neutral, and the bill now moves on to Appropriations. A number of committee members referenced personal connections and experiences with the disease as well as calls and letters they had received from committed advocates. You can listen to all the testimony by clicking the link below. HB1103 coverage kicks in at the 3:44 mark. Senators Rhonda Fields (SD29) and Kevin Priola (SD25) are also primary co-sponsors on the Senate side. https://coloradoga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=117&clip_id=14753

LEGISLATORS GETTING BEHIND HB1103

Representative Dominique Jackson HD42 (Arapahoe): "These statistics are frightening.... We get busy in our lives until something jolts us. This bill has had an immediate effect on my life!"

Representative Kerry Tipper HD28 (JeffCo) talked fondly of her friend Madeline Mellers, known to many of us: "Madeline was vibrant and whip smart and committed a lot of her time and energy, even at the end, to awareness and increased access and early screening. It was too late for her but she didn't want that to be the case for anyone else"

Representative Brianna Titone HD27 (JeffCo): "I will do a social media post on this issue to make people aware that they should be mindful of getting checked out."

Representative Richard Holfort, HD64 (Southeast): "I am going to share this across my 9-county district to motivate more people to get colorectal screenings. I am in support of lowering the screening age to 45."

Representative Bri Buentello, HD47 (Fremont, Otero and Pueblo): "One of the pain points of families throughout Southeastern Colorado is a lack of access to preventative and primary care medicine. HD 1103 helps to ensure that these insurance industries are covering vital preventative procedures such as screenings for colorectal cancer; this policy will undoubtedly save our Southern Colorado families money on healthcare and save lives.

Senator Larry Crowder, SD35 (East, south and southeast Colorado): "I will be supporting this bill in Senate Health and Human Services committee upon arrival."

HB1103 Primary Co-Sponsors



Representative
Janet Buckner HD40



Representative
Perry Will HD57



Senator
Kevin Priola SD25



Senator
Rhonda Fields SD29

“This policy will undoubtedly save our Southern Colorado families money on healthcare and save lives....”



Representative Bri Buentello HD47
Fremont, Otero and Pueblo


Say **YES** to HB1103

HB1103: media snapshot

POST INDEPENDENT

Colorado bill would require insurance to cover colorectal cancer screenings beginning at age 45

News | January 21, 2020



Matthew Bennett

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“A bill introduced at the Colorado legislative session has garnered [support] as it would require health insurance carriers to cover preventative colorectal cancer screenings for both average-risk men and women beginning at the age of 45 as opposed to 50. House Bill 20-1103 [would also] mandate coverage of a follow-up colonoscopy should the initial medical test or procedure come back as being abnormal.”

BECKER'S

GI & Endoscopy

'Put our people's health first': Why Colorado legislators are pushing to lower CRC screening age to 45

Written by Eric Oliver | January 27, 2020 | [Print](#) | [Email](#)

“Colorado could soon require insurers to cover colorectal cancer screening costs beginning at age 45 instead of 50 if the Colorado Cancer Coalition and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network are successful in their lobbying. Colorado would become the first state to pass such legislation that wasn't aligned with the American Cancer Society's guidelines, which recommend beginning screening at 45.”

 **coloradopolitics**

Cancer groups laud Colorado bill to lower insured screening age to 45



Lakewood man shares colorectal cancer story as lawmakers consider bill lowering age to get screened

LA JUNTA
TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

State colorectal cancer bill passes first House committee review

“States have to change the law,” Wilson said, “[and] we still have to get the screening [to] underserved rural areas. That’s where the lowest screening rates are..... The strides that have been made in breast cancer screening, it’s just automatic now. Women at 40 just get screened for breast cancer. There’s no hesitation. It’s just what you do. For some reason there’s a hesitation among colorectal cancer and that needs to be eliminated.”


Colorado Cancer Coalition

CRC NEWS TO SHARE?

If you have any ideas, news tips or local coverage to share, please let us know at media@coloradocancercoalition.org