

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EARLY DETECTION SCREENING

WHEREAS, early detection is critical in the successful treatment and survival outcomes of cancer, particularly breast cancer and colorectal cancer, which are among the leading causes of cancer related deaths in North Carolina and the United States; and

WHEREAS, recent studies and epidemiological trends have shown a notable increase in the incidence of both breast cancer in women under 40 and colorectal cancer in individuals under 50; and

WHEREAS, earlier detection of cancer is directly linked to improved survival rates, less invasive treatment options, and overall better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, current guidelines by major health organizations typically recommend starting routine breast mammograms at age 40 and colonoscopies at age 45, potentially missing early detection opportunities in younger populations; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of cases in younger adults highlights the need to revisit and adjust screening age guidelines to better reflect the changing epidemiological landscape; and

WHEREAS, early detection of diseases through preventive screenings such as mammograms and colonoscopies is proven to significantly reduce long-term treatment costs and improve health outcomes, and such screenings should be promoted and made accessible without increasing premiums, copayments, or out-of-pocket costs to individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommended minimum age for initiating routine breast cancer screening through mammography be reduced from the current guideline age to 30 years of age, especially for individuals with average risk, with individualized assessment beginning even earlier for those with family history or other risk factors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recommended minimum age for routine colonoscopy screenings for colorectal cancer be lowered from the current standard to 40 years of age, including for individuals considered at average risk;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that national and regional health agencies, insurance providers, and medical institutions review and revise their screening protocols, coverage policies, and public health strategies to align with these updated age recommendations;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that public awareness campaigns be launched to educate the population on the revised guidelines, risk factors, and the importance of early screening.

ADOPTED this 16 day of June, 2025.

ATTEST:

Kimberly W. Hines

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Clerk to the Board



Benji Holloman

Benji Holloman, Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners