

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CANCER  
SCREENING**

2000 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Marda Dillree**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR ENCOURAGING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND EMPLOYERS TO INCLUDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE SCREENING AND DETECTION OF BREAST, COLORECTAL, AND PROSTATE CANCER.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the only states without mandates for private health plans to cover or offer coverage of mammography screening are Utah and Wyoming;

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has demonstrated that mammography is safe and effective and is the best way to detect breast cancers early, when they are most treatable, and that additional lives are saved if women over the age of 40 get mammograms every year;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health is required to provide subsidized screening mammography for low-income women, and all state Medicaid programs cover mammography screenings;

WHEREAS, breast cancer affects more than 175,000 women in the United States each year;

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer, which is diagnosed in 131,000 Americans annually, is the primary cause of cancer death in the millions of Americans who have never used tobacco;

WHEREAS, early detection testing for colorectal cancer has been definitively proven to consistently lower disease specific mortality, yet most Americans have not been screened for colorectal cancer;

WHEREAS, early-detection testing for colorectal cancer is arguably the most powerful, underused lifesaving examination available in the United States;

WHEREAS, colorectal screening helps prevent colon cancer through early detection of polyps before they progress into cancer;

WHEREAS, prostate cancer affects 1 in 9 men in the United States and causes 37,000 deaths annually;

WHEREAS, annual prostate testing for men between the ages of 50 and 75 is the best way to find prostate cancer and potentially save thousands of lives; and

WHEREAS, screening for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer facilitates early detection which extends many lives, reduces treatment and costs of treatment and improves the quality of life for cancer patients:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, encourage employers within the state of Utah to become better educated about the benefits of regular mammography, colorectal, and prostate cancer screening and to provide insurance coverage for annual screening for middle aged and older employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage health insurance companies in Utah to cover or offer to cover in all health insurance policies, annual mammography, colorectal, and prostate cancer screening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage all citizens of Utah to become better educated about the health benefits and health care cost benefits of early cancer detection through mammography, colorectal, and prostate cancer screening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of Utah's Chambers of Commerce and the Utah Health Insurance Association.