Dear [Official's Name]
[Title]
[Address]

## NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: MARCH

On behalf of [Organization], we urge your support in proclaiming March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in [city/state].

As you may know, colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented because colorectal cancer screening allows doctors to find and remove hidden growths (called "polyps") before they become cancer. Removing polyps can prevent cancer altogether. Yet colorectal cancer remains the third-leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States. Each year, tens of thousands of lives are lost to this disease.

Despite these staggering statistics, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable, treatable, and beatable forms of cancer, especially when it is caught early. Wider use of proven screening tests could save more than half of these lives.

During March, we ask you to help our [state/city/community] fight this disease by proclaiming March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging your residents to help reduce the number of lives lost to colorectal cancer. Simply aging can make you more at risk for developing colon cancer, and early stage colon cancer doesn't usually cause symptoms. But there are steps you can take to reduce your risk for the disease.

- Once you turn 50 it is important that you talk to your doctor about getting screened regularly for colon cancer. Talk to your doctor sooner if you have a family history of the disease or other condition that puts you at increased risk.
- Take the time to learn the facts about colorectal cancer. Visit [insert organization website] or www. NCCRT.org for information and links to resources.
- Talk to your friends and family about the importance of getting screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 50 and other ways to reduce the risk of the disease, such as not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, eating less red meat, and consuming alcohol in moderation or not at all. You can help save lives.
- Wear the Blue Star, which represents the eternal memory of those whose lives have been lost to colorectal cancer and the shining hope for a future free of the disease. Contact groups like the Colon Cancer Alliance, Fight Colorectal Cancer or the American Cancer Society to get Blue Star pins and show your support.
- Each time you see the Blue Star, remember and share the facts colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable.

Thank you for considering this lifesaving request. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Signed]