WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. among men and women combined but there is currently no cure; and

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening; and

WHEREAS: Incidence rates of colorectal cancer are continuing to rise among young and middle-aged adults, including people under the age of 50; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that over 140,000 people were diagnosed in 2019 with colorectal cancer and over 50,000 people died; and

WHEREAS: An estimated 2,320 Minnesotans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 790 Minnesotans may die from this disease in 2020; and

WHEREAS: The national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

WHEREAS: The screening rate in Minnesota for the eligible population is 71%; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that all people, of all ages, know the signs and symptoms of the disease; and

WHEREAS: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2020, as:

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 7th day of February.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE