



**County
Health Officials
of New York**
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SUPPORTS

A.344/S.1836 (Dinowitz/Kennedy)

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to providing insurance coverage for colorectal cancer early detection

New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports legislation providing insurance coverage for colorectal cancer early detection for persons fifty years of age or older and for persons of any age who are considered to be at the high risk for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is found in men and women of all racial and ethnic groups, and is most often diagnosed in people aged 50 years or older. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in the United States, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer for men and women.

Both the federal Healthy People 2020 and the NYS Prevention Agenda 2013-2017 include increased screening for colorectal cancer among their goals and objectives. While screening rates have increased in both New York and the U.S., screening for colorectal cancer still remains below the targeted rates. In 2012, 65% of U.S. adults were up-to-date with colorectal cancer screening; 7% had been screened, but were not up-to-date; and 28% had never been screened.

Regular screening, beginning at age 50, is vital to preventing colorectal cancer. The CDC recommends individuals at higher risk of developing colorectal cancer should begin screening at a younger age, and may need to be tested more frequently. Early detection and treatment of polyps can prevent the development of colorectal cancer. Early identification can also allow for the start of treatment before the cancer spreads to other parts of the body.

Insurance coverage of colorectal screening is required under the Affordable Care Act, but the requirement does not apply to certain "grandfathered" plans that were in place before the law's implementation. This bill will ensure that all insured New Yorkers are covered for this important preventive service.

For the above-referenced reasons NYSACHO supports this bill and recommends it be enacted into law.

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