

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3490

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## AN ACT

To require the Government Accountability Office to produce  
a report on esophageal cancer, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Gerald E. Connolly  
3 Esophageal Cancer Awareness Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds that—

6           (1) esophageal cancer is the fastest increasing  
7 cancer among American men;

8           (2) esophageal cancer is one of the fastest  
9 growing cancer diagnoses among all Americans, in-  
10 creasing more than 700 percent in recent decades;

11           (3) esophageal cancer kills 1 American every 36  
12 minutes every day;

13           (4) esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of  
14 cancers, with only about 1 in 5 patients surviving 5  
15 years;

16           (5) esophageal cancer has tripled in incidence  
17 among younger Americans in recent decades;

18           (6) esophageal cancer has low survival rates be-  
19 cause it is usually discovered at advanced stages  
20 when treatment outcomes are poor;

21           (7) raising awareness about esophageal cancer  
22 empowers individuals to seek preventive care, recog-  
23 nize symptoms, and pursue early detection strate-  
24 gies;

25           (8) survivors, caregivers, medical professionals,  
26 and researchers have made tremendous strides in

1       advancing treatment options and improving the  
2       quality of life for those affected by the disease;

3               (9) esophageal cancer can be prevented through  
4       early detection of its precursor, Barrett’s esophagus,  
5       which can be eliminated with curative outpatient  
6       techniques;

7               (10) research indicates that patients diagnosed  
8       with early-stage esophageal cancer have a signifi-  
9       cantly higher 5-year survival rate (as high as 49 per-  
10      cent) compared to those diagnosed at later stages,  
11      underscoring the critical need for enhanced screen-  
12      ing and awareness; and

13              (11) as of December 2022, the American Gas-  
14      troenterological Association recommends screening  
15      with a standard upper endoscopy in individuals with  
16      3 or more established risk factors for Barrett’s  
17      Esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma, includ-  
18      ing—

19                      (A) male sex;

20                      (B) non-Hispanic white ethnicity;

21                      (C) age of 50 years or older;

22                      (D) a history of smoking, chronic gastro-  
23      intestinal reflux disease, or obesity; and

24                      (E) a family history of Barrett’s Esoph-  
25      agus or esophageal adenocarcinoma.

1 **SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
4 shall submit a report to Congress that includes an evalua-  
5 tion of—

6 (1) the total impact of esophageal cancer-re-  
7 lated health care spending under the Federal Em-  
8 ployee Health Benefits Program for Federal employ-  
9 ees and retirees diagnosed with esophageal cancer;  
10 and

11 (2) how often individuals covered under the  
12 Federal Employees Health Benefits Program with  
13 medical records indicating such individuals are high-  
14 risk for esophageal cancer undergo screening accord-  
15 ing to the established guidelines.

Passed the House of Representatives June 3, 2025.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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