Press Release
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Granger: CMS Made Wrong Decision in Prohibiting Medicare Reimbursement of Virtual Colonoscopies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX) released the following statement today in response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' decision regarding Medicare coverage of virtual colonoscopies:

"I am disappointed that today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a national coverage decision that prohibits Medicare reimbursement of virtual colonoscopies as a screening procedure. Virtual colonoscopies are an important tool in the battle against colorectal cancer, and I hope that CMS will reconsider this decision.

"There is clear evidence that when insurance reimbursement is available for virtual colonoscopies, more people are screened for colorectal cancer. Less than half of those who should be screened receive a colonoscopy. We need to make sure more Americans are screened for this deadly yet preventable disease.

"One way to do that is by enacting a national colorectal cancer screening and treatment program. My bill, the Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Act (H.R. 1189), would put in place a national colorectal cancer screening and treatment program similar to what we currently have in place for breast and cervical cancer.

"In 1987, before the national breast cancer screening and treatment programs were enacted, only 29 percent of women aged 40 and older reported having a mammogram in the previous two years. Today that screening rate is nearly 70 percent.

"Passage of a national screening and treatment program for breast and cervical cancer has allowed us to make great strides against those diseases and saved thousands of lives. It is time we did the same for colorectal cancer."