

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 197

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of Chronic  
Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2001

Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) submitted the following  
concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Govern-  
ment Reform

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establish-  
ment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Aware-  
ness Month.

Whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (“COPD”) is  
primarily associated with emphysema and chronic bron-  
chitis, conditions with which 3,000,000 and 9,000,000  
people in the United States, respectively, have been diag-  
nosed;

Whereas COPD is progressive and irreversible;

Whereas as COPD progresses, the airways and alveoli in the  
lungs lose elasticity and the airway walls collapse, closing  
off smaller airways and narrowing larger ones;

Whereas symptoms of COPD include chronic coughing, chest  
tightness, shortness of breath, increased effort to breathe,

increased mucus production, and frequent clearing of the throat;

Whereas risk factors for COPD include long-term smoking, a family history of COPD, exposure to air pollution or second-hand smoke, and a history of childhood respiratory infections;

Whereas more than half of all people who suffer from COPD report that their condition limits their ability to work, sleep, and participate in social and physical activities;

Whereas more than half of all people who suffer from COPD feel they are not in control of their breathing, panic when they cannot catch their breath, and expect their condition to worsen;

Whereas 16,000,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with some form of COPD and an estimated 16,000,000 people in the United States with COPD are undiagnosed;

Whereas nearly 107,000 people died in the United States of COPD in 1998, making COPD the fourth leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas COPD accounted for 13,400,000 office visits to doctors in 1997 and 668,362 hospitalizations in 1998;

Whereas COPD costs the economy of the United States an estimated \$30,400,000,000 a year; and

Whereas too many people with COPD are not diagnosed or are not receiving adequate treatment: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  
2           Awareness Month should be established to raise pub-  
3           lic awareness about the prevalence of chronic ob-  
4           structive pulmonary disease and the serious prob-  
5           lems associated with the disease; and

6           (2) the President should issue a proclamation  
7           calling on the people of the United States to observe  
8           such a month with appropriate programs and activi-  
9           ties.

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