

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 129

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of the month of November each year as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2002

Mr. CRAPO submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of the month of November each year as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month”.

Whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (referred to in this concurrent resolution as “COPD”) is primarily associated with emphysema and chronic bronchitis, conditions with which 3,000,000 and 9,000,000 people in the United States, respectively, have been diagnosed;

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;

Whereas in 1997, 24 States experienced death rates from COPD which were between 41 and 61 deaths per 100,000 people; and

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

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

3 (1) November of each year should be estab-
4 lished as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
5 Awareness Month” to raise public awareness about
6 the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary dis-
7 ease and the serious problems associated with the
8 disease; and

9 (2) the President should issue a proclamation
10 calling on the people of the United States to observe
11 the month with appropriate programs and activities.

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