

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 753

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2012

Mr. MEEKS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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# RESOLUTION

Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by supporting education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

Whereas the incidence of prostate cancer in African-American men is more than one-and-a-half times higher than in any other racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas African-American men have the highest mortality rate of any ethnic and racial group in the United States, dying at a rate that is approximately two-and-a-half times higher than other ethnic and racial groups;

Whereas that rate of mortality represents the largest disparity of mortality rates in any of the major cancers;

Whereas prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and the proper treatment, regardless of the ethnic or racial group of the cancer patient;

Whereas African-Americans are more likely to be diagnosed at an earlier age and at a later stage of cancer progression than all other ethnic and racial groups, leading to lower cure rates and lower chances of survival;

Whereas for patients diagnosed early, studies show a 5-year survival rate of nearly 100 percent, but the survival rate drops significantly to 28 percent for patients diagnosed in late stages; and

Whereas recent genomics research has increased the ability to identify men at high risk for aggressive prostate cancer: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes that prostate cancer has created  
3       a health crisis for African-American men;

4               (2) recognizes the importance of health cov-  
5       erage and access to care, as well as promoting in-  
6       formed decisionmaking between men and their doc-  
7       tors, taking into consideration the known risks and  
8       potential benefits of screening and treatment options  
9       for prostate cancer;

10              (3) urges Federal agencies to support—

11                      (A) research to address and attempt to end  
12       the health crisis created by prostate cancer;

1           (B) efforts relating to education, aware-  
2           ness, and early detection at the grassroots level  
3           to end that health crisis; and

4           (C) the Office of Minority Health of the  
5           Department of Health and Human Services in  
6           focusing on improving health and healthcare  
7           outcomes for African-Americans at an elevated  
8           risk of prostate cancer; and

9           (4) urges investment by Federal agencies in re-  
10          search focusing on the improvement of early detec-  
11          tion and treatment of prostate cancer, such as the  
12          use of—

13                 (A) biomarkers to accurately distinguish  
14                 indolent forms of prostate cancer from lethal  
15                 forms; and

16                 (B) advanced imaging tools to ensure the  
17                 best level of individualized patient care.

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