

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 496

Designating September 2023 as “National Cholesterol Education Month”
and September 30, 2023, as LDL–C Awareness Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2023 as “National Cholesterol Education Month” and September 30, 2023, as LDL–C Awareness Day.

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for men and women;

Whereas projected rates of cardiovascular disease are expected to increase significantly in the United States by 2060;

Whereas, compared to urban areas, rural areas in the United States have higher death rates for cardiovascular disease and stroke, and a 40 percent higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease;

Whereas risk factors contributing to cardiovascular disease and poor health outcomes include elevated low density lipoprotein cholesterol (referred to in this preamble as “LDL–C”), high levels of lipoprotein(a) cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, low awareness of personal risk factors, genetics, geographic location, and inequitable access to care;

Whereas lipoprotein(a) cholesterol is predominantly genetically inherited and can build up in the walls of blood vessels creating cholesterol deposits, or plaques, and lead to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease;

Whereas LDL–C is a modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease and having lower LDL–C is associated with a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke;

Whereas more than 25.5 percent of adults in the United States have high LDL–C;

Whereas more than 200 studies with more than 2,000,000 patients have broadly established that elevated LDL–C unequivocally causes atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease;

Whereas atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is the build-up of cholesterol plaque within the walls of arteries and includes acute coronary syndrome, peripheral arterial disease, and events such as heart attacks and strokes;

Whereas the resources needed to bend the curve on cardiovascular disease exist, yet 71 percent of hypercholesterolemia patients at high risk of a cardiovascular event never achieve recommended LDL–C treatment guideline thresholds;

Whereas only 33 percent of individuals with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease who are taking statins, a guideline

recommended lipid lowering therapy, actually achieve LDL-C goals;

Whereas, although clinical guidelines recommend that a patient hospitalized for heart attack receive an LDL-C test in the 90 days following discharge from a hospital, only 27 percent of patients receive such test;

Whereas African-American adults are less likely to receive an LDL-C test in the 90 days following discharge from a hospital, despite having a higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease;

Whereas significant gaps in care lead to subsequent cardiovascular events;

Whereas the Million Hearts program seeks to improve access to and quality of care to reduce heart disease, stroke, and death; and

Whereas September is recognized as National Cholesterol Education Month to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and the importance of knowing one's LDL-C number: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) encourages all individuals in the United
3 States to know their low density lipoprotein cholesterol (referred to in this resolution as “LDL-C”)
4 number;
5

6 (2) designates September 2023, as “National
7 Cholesterol Education Month”;

8 (3) designates September 30, 2023, as “LDL-
9 C Awareness Day”; and

- 1 (4) recognizes the urgent need for screening
- 2 and treating of elevated LDL-C to reduce the risk
- 3 of cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular events,
- 4 including heart attacks and strokes.

