



SR0714

LRB097 20996 GRL 68278 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is an umbrella term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

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WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million individuals in the United States, and kills more than 120,000 Americans a year; on average, one person dies from COPD every 4 minutes; and

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WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics releases a report stating that, in 2008, COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are detrimental to the United States economy; COPD costs the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

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WHEREAS, The 2010 Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey revealed that over 440,000 Illinoisans have been diagnosed with COPD; it is estimated that another 440,000 have yet to be diagnosed; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Illinois COPD Coalition, convened by the
2 Respiratory Health Association, continues to implement the
3 State Plan for Addressing COPD, a plan that outlines
4 sustainable solutions to improve care and treatment and to
5 prevent and reduce the prevalence of the disease in Illinois;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Research has identified a hereditary protein
8 deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin; people with this
9 deficiency tend to develop COPD, despite the lack of exposure
10 to smoking and environmental triggers; and

11 WHEREAS, Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has
12 surpassed the death rate of men with COPD; women over the age
13 of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the population to
14 develop this irreversible disease, due in large part to the
15 equalization of opportunity for men and women to smoke over the
16 past several generations; and

17 WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for COPD; spirometry
18 testing and medical treatments, such as pulmonary
19 rehabilitation, exist to address symptom relief and possibly
20 slow progression of the disease; and

21 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to

1 preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and
2 mortality impacts lie in education, awareness, and expanded
3 delivery of detection and management protocols; therefore, be
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5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
7 of November as COPD Awareness Month in the State of Illinois
8 and urge the citizens of this State to become more aware of
9 COPD and its effects.