

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the third-leading cause of death in the United States and is the second-leading cause of disability; and

Whereas, pulmonary experts predict that by 2020, COPD will become the leading cause of death worldwide; and

Whereas, the major risk factor for COPD is smoking. Other risk factors include environmental and workplace exposure to air pollution, a history of childhood respiratory infection, and genetics; and

Whereas, tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in Missouri; and

Whereas, chronic lower respiratory disease accounted for 6.4% of 2012 Missouri resident deaths, including emphysema, asthma, and bronchitis (2012 Vital Statistics); and

Whereas, approximately 8.1 percent of Missouri adults reported having COPD in 2012; and

Whereas, the American Association for Respiratory Care reports that just over half of all persons with COPD report that their condition limits their ability to work, while thirty-four percent say that COPD keeps them from working; and

Whereas, early COPD screening and diagnosis is critical, and a diagnostic test for COPD known as spirometry is available for office use, yet most people are not diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD; and

Whereas, until there is a cure for COPD, increased public awareness, early detection, and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs and improved quality of life and self-sufficiency; and

Whereas, the Missouri Chronic Disease State Plan, On Common Ground for Health guides the statewide stakeholders working together on efforts to prevent and lessen the burden of chronic disease. The state plan identifies areas for collaboration to reduce cost, as well as increase the impact, of the efforts to improve the health of Missourians:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge recognition of COPD as a chronic health condition in Missouri which contributes to increasing health care

costs and decreasing productivity of its citizens; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri General Assembly encourages the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to include COPD as a chronic health condition in its efforts to address serious and chronic health conditions in Missouri by seeking out and applying for funding and grants available to provide public awareness or treatment for COPD in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri General Assembly encourages the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to include COPD as a chronic health condition in its current efforts to educate the public about the effects of smoking or other preventable and treatable chronic health conditions; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri General Assembly hereby designate November 2014 as COPD awareness month in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Department of Health and Senior Services.

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