

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 114

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to commemorate “COPD Awareness Month” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million persons in the United States, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed and seventy percent of whom are under age 65; and

WHEREAS, COPD kills more than 124,000 Americans every year, and on average, one person dies from COPD every five minutes; and

WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office visits and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are detrimental to the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in direct and indirect health care annually; and

WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 8.7% of the state’s citizens and is the fifth leading cause of death in this State; and

WHEREAS, research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin, and individuals with this deficiency tend to develop COPD, despite the lack of exposure to smoking and other environmental triggers; and

WHEREAS, recently, the death rate for women with COPD has surpassed the death rate for men with COPD, and women over forty years of age are the fastest growing segment of the population developing this irreversible disease due mostly to an increased rate of smoking among women over the past several generations; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for COPD, although spirometry testing and medical treatments exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and mortality impacts lie in education, awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and management protocols; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the COPD Foundation and the American Lung Association as they commemorate November 2015 as “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month” in Tennessee in recognition of this deadly disease and its effects on the citizens of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.