

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1041

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION relative to the Tennessee Department of Health and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

WHEREAS, in 2008, 12.1 million U.S. adults (aged 18 and over) were estimated to have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), including 208,014 individuals in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, COPD, a serious, progressive disease, which includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both, robs people of their ability to breathe and kills more Americans each year than breast cancer and diabetes combined; and

WHEREAS, COPD is the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for 120,970 deaths in 2006; and

WHEREAS, COPD can be controlled and progression slowed with proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute projects the cost for COPD in 2010 to be \$49.9 billion, including \$29.5 billion in direct health care expenditures, \$8.0 billion in indirect morbidity costs, and \$12.4 billion in indirect mortality costs; and

WHEREAS, the environment and good COPD care are critical to the quality of life of our citizens with COPD; and

WHEREAS, the State bears a responsibility in matters of public health which includes the quality of life for our citizens with COPD and those citizens who are at risk for COPD; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby hope the Tennessee Department of Health will consider

working in the best interests of the public health of our citizens with COPD and those citizens who are at risk for COPD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Department of Health should consider:

(a) identifying COPD as a chronic disease in order to collect data on the incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality of COPD;

(b) seeking grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control to enable the development of a COPD awareness campaign to educate our citizens about the disease, its symptoms, and the ability to better manage COPD through prevention and treatments;

(c) encouraging our citizens with COPD to develop, in cooperation with medical professionals and health support organizations, a "COPD Action Plan" as an important tool in the daily management of this condition; and

(d) establishing a coordinating committee tasked with assessing the COPD risk factors for citizens of our State, identifying the existing barriers to good COPD care, and developing actions steps for addressing those needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the commissioner of the department of health with this final clause omitted from such copy.