

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 518

Expressing support for the designation of September 2017 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. COHEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of September 2017 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis (PF) is a debilitating and ultimately fatal lung condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and has no definitive cause;

Whereas, as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from the progressive, suffocating effects of pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas the average survival rate for the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is just 2.8 years and up to 80 percent of IPF patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 or more individuals in the United States each year—approximately 1 every 13 minutes or 110 every day;

Whereas many patients afflicted with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 to 3 years after presenting pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas, as of July 2017, there are no confirmed biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure, treatment, or drug to halt the fibrotic process in pulmonary fibrosis does not yet exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person-to-person and include shortness of breath, persistent cough, finger “clubbing”, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas courageous volunteers, dedicated researchers, tireless caregivers, and medical professionals are working tirelessly to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and for the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care for individuals with PF requires significantly increased basic and translational research funding and grants, patient and physician education, and enhanced community support services: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of “Pulmonary Fi-
3 brosis Awareness Month”;

4 (2) supports the goals and ideals of “Pul-
5 monary Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

6 (3) continues to support and advocate for more
7 robust and accelerated private, State, and Federal

1 research to develop more effective treatments and
2 therapies for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately
3 discover a cure for this lethal disease;

4 (4) continues to support and advocate for effec-
5 tive Federal efforts to ease the administrative bur-
6 dens on those suffering from pulmonary fibrosis and
7 their families and caregivers;

8 (5) continues to support and advocate for swift
9 and efficient Federal evaluation and approval of new
10 drugs and other treatment options for pulmonary fi-
11 brosis patients;

12 (6) recognizes the ongoing courage and con-
13 tributions of individuals with pulmonary fibrosis who
14 participate in vital, invaluable clinical trials to ad-
15 vance the knowledge of the disease; and

16 (7) commends and encourages the continued
17 dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers,
18 clinicians, rehabilitation professionals, and dedicated
19 individuals in the United States and abroad working
20 tirelessly to improve the quality of life for individuals
21 with pulmonary fibrosis and the families and care-
22 givers of those individuals.

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