

By: J. Davis of Harris

H.C.R. No. 74

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is an  
2 umbrella term used to describe progressive lung diseases including  
3 emphysema, chronic bronchitis, refractory non-reversible asthma,  
4 and some forms of bronchiectasis; and

5 WHEREAS, In people with COPD the airways and air sacs in the  
6 lungs lose their elastic qualities and can not bounce back to their  
7 original shape and then become swollen and thicker and in some cases  
8 partially blocked or obstructed leading to difficulty breathing and  
9 ultimately to the inability to breathe; and

10 WHEREAS, Smoking is the main risk factor for developing COPD  
11 as well as second hand smoke exposure, occupational dust, chemical  
12 exposure, air pollution and genetics are also common causes of  
13 COPD; and

14 WHEREAS, Nationally the COPD Foundation reports that COPD is  
15 responsible for direct and in-direct health care related costs  
16 projected at \$49.9 billion in 2010 and that 70% of those costs are  
17 related to hospitalizations; and

18 WHEREAS, It is also estimated by the Agency for Healthcare  
19 Research and Quality that one out of five individuals over forty in  
20 the hospital have COPD; and

21 WHEREAS, In Texas the prevalence of COPD is 5.5% of the total  
22 population and COPD affects individuals across all age groups but  
23 at even higher rates for individuals aged 55-64 at 8.1% and  
24 individuals 65 and over at a shocking 13.3%; and

1           WHEREAS, The American Association for Respiratory Care  
2 reports that nationally just over half of all persons with COPD  
3 report that their condition limits their ability to work and 34% say  
4 that COPD keeps them from working; and

5           WHEREAS, There is no cure for COPD, and its lung damage is  
6 irreversible, treatments can improve a patients quality of life by  
7 reducing frequency and severity of exacerbations, prevent symptoms  
8 from growing worse, and improving health status; and

9           WHEREAS, Treatments for COPD include stopping smoking,  
10 removing air pollutants from home and work, and treating symptoms  
11 with medication and pulmonary rehabilitation; and

12           WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
13 reports that in 2011 "chronic lower respiratory diseases" which are  
14 included with in the conditions under the umbrella term of COPD are  
15 the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

16           WHEREAS, That many individuals who experience shortness of  
17 breath or other early symptoms of COPD mistake these symotoms as  
18 being a part of the "normal aging process" and then wait to receive  
19 treatments until the conditions are severe and the lung damage is  
20 significantly more difficult to treat and manage;

21           WHEREAS, Concerted public outreach efforts such as a  
22 DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening  
23 campaign for COPD, and the NHLBI's COPD: Learn More Breathe Better  
24 Campaign, can dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; now,  
25 therefore, be it

26           RESOLVED, That The 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
27 hereby recognize Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder as a

1 chronic health condition in Texas which contributes to increasing  
2 health care costs and decreasing productivity of its citizens; and,  
3 be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 directs the Texas Department of State Health Services to include  
6 COPD as a chronic health condition in their efforts to address  
7 serious and chronic health conditions in Texas by seeking out and  
8 applying for funding and grants available to provide public  
9 awareness or treatment for COPD in Texas; and, be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 directs the Texas Department of State Health Services to include  
12 COPD as a chronic health condition in their current efforts to  
13 educate the public about the effects of smoking or other  
14 preventable and treatable chronic health conditions; and, be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
17 hereby designate November as COPD awareness Month; and, be it  
18 further

19       RESOLVED That in accordance with the provisions of Section  
20 391.044(d), Government Code, the designation expires on the 10th  
21 anniversary of the date this resolution is passed by the  
22 legislature.