

By: Hinojosa
(J. Davis of Harris)

S.C.R. No. 26

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, In Texas the prevalence of COPD is 5.5 percent of the
23 total population, and COPD affects individuals across all age
24 groups but at even higher rates for individuals aged 55-64 at 8.1

1 percent and individuals 65 and over at a shocking 13.3 percent; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Concerted public outreach efforts such as a
23 DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening
24 campaign for COPD, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood
25 Institute's COPD "Learn More Breathe Better Campaign" can
26 dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; now, therefore, be
27 it

1 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby recognize Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as a chronic
3 health condition in Texas which contributes to increasing health
4 care costs and decreasing productivity of its citizens; and, be it
5 further

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby designate November as COPD Awareness Month; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
22 391.004(d), Government Code, the designation expires on the 10th
23 anniversary of the date this resolution is passed by the
24 legislature.