

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 26

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 individuals 65 and over at a shocking 13.3%; 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% say  
5 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 patients 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 with in the conditions under the umbrella term of COPD are  
16 the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

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

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 NHLBI's COPD: Learn More Breathe Better  
25 Campaign, can dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That The 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas

1 hereby recognize Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder as a  
2 chronic health condition in Texas which contributes to increasing  
3 health care costs and decreasing productivity of its citizens; and,  
4 be it further

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

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

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

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