

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 189

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding inflammatory bowel disease.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2001

Mrs. KELLY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding inflammatory bowel disease.

Whereas Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease) are chronic disorders of the intestinal tract that cause intense pain and suffering and represent the leading cause of morbidity from digestive illness;

Whereas the cause of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are unknown and there is no cure;

Whereas an estimated 1 million people in the United States suffer inflammatory bowel disease;

Whereas inflammatory bowel disease affects men and women equally, tends to run in families, and predominately afflicts persons under the age of 30 although it can strike at any age;

Whereas inflammatory bowel disease patients often require intensive steroid treatments or invasive surgery to control their symptoms;

Whereas in 1990, the total annual medical costs for Crohn's disease patients was estimated at \$1–\$1.2 billion;

Whereas in 1990, the total annual medical cost for ulcerative colitis patients was estimated at \$400–\$600 million;

Whereas inflammatory bowel disease patients are at high risk for developing colorectal cancer;

Whereas research recently identified the first gene for Crohn's disease; and

Whereas the Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research, epidemiology, and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) all Americans should take an active role in
4 the fight against inflammatory bowel disease by all
5 means available to them, including the investigation
6 of family histories;

7 (2) the role played by national organizations
8 and health care providers in promoting awareness of
9 inflammatory bowel disease and supporting research
10 should be applauded;

11 (3) the Federal Government has a responsibility
12 to—

1 (A) endeavor to raise awareness about in-
2 flammatory bowel disease, and the high risk
3 that patients have for developing colorectal can-
4 cer;

5 (B) continue to consider ways to improve
6 the quality of health care services for inflam-
7 matory bowel disease patients, including rec-
8 ognition of the need for unimpeded access to a
9 gastroenterologist, and coverage of parenteral
10 and enteral nutrition; and

11 (C) assess the challenges that inflam-
12 matory bowel disease patients frequently en-
13 counter when applying for Social Security dis-
14 ability benefits, and take appropriate action to
15 address these barriers;

16 (4) the Director of the National Institute of Di-
17 abetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, in col-
18 laboration with other appropriate institutes of the
19 National Institutes of Health, should continue to
20 take a leadership role in the fight against inflam-
21 matory bowel disease through the expansion of ge-
22 netic, environmental, and clinical research; and

23 (5) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
24 tion should give priority consideration to the estab-
25 lishment of a national inflammatory bowel disease

- 1 epidemiology program for the purpose of deter-
- 2 mining the true prevalence and demographic charac-
- 3 teristics of the disease.

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