

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 237

Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  
Awareness Month.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2007

Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) submitted the following  
concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic Obstructive  
Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month.

Whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (“COPD”) is  
primarily associated with emphysema and chronic bron-  
chitis;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
have estimated that 10,000,000 adults in the United  
States have been diagnosed by a physician with COPD;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
have estimated that 24,000,000 adults in the United  
States have symptoms of impaired lung function, indi-  
cating COPD is underdiagnosed;

Whereas COPD is progressive and is not fully reversible;

Whereas as COPD progresses, the airways alveoli in the lungs lose elasticity and the airway walls collapse, closing off smaller airways and narrowing larger ones;

Whereas symptoms of COPD include chronic coughing, shortness of breath, increased effort to breath, increased mucus production, and frequent clearing of the throat;

Whereas risk factors for COPD include long-term smoking, a family history of COPD, exposure to air-pollution or second-hand smoke, and a history of frequent childhood respiratory infections;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD report that their condition limits their ability to work, sleep, and participate in social and physical activities;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD feel they are not in control of their breathing, panic when they cannot catch their breath, and expect their condition to worsen;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 119,000 adults in the United States died of COPD in 2000, making COPD the fourth leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that COPD accounted for 8,000,000 office visits to doctors, 1,500,000 emergency department visits, and 726,000 hospitalizations by adults in the United States in 2000;

Whereas too many people with COPD are not diagnosed or are not receiving adequate treatment; and

Whereas Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month raises public awareness about the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and the serious

problems associated with the disease: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideals*  
3 *of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness*  
4 *Month.*

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