

House Resolution 120 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY L. MILLER

1 A Resolution recognizing November 2012 as COPD
2 Awareness Month.

3 WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
4 (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction
5 that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic
6 bronchitis; and

7 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million people
8 and kills more than 120,000 Americans every year, with
9 an average of one person dying from COPD every four
10 minutes, an alarming statistic for a disease many have
11 never heard of; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2008 COPD became the third leading cause
13 of death in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, pulmonary experts predict that by the year
15 2020, COPD will become the leading cause of death
16 worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million
18 emergency department visits, 726,000 hospitalizations,
19 and 8 million physician office and hospital outpatient
20 visits, all of which are a detriment to the U.S.
21 economy, costing the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion
22 in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2008, 3,452 Iowans 45 years of
24 age and older died from COPD; and

25 WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2008, COPD
26 hospitalizations in Iowa rose from a rate of 4.4
27 per 1,000 to 4.9 per 1,000, with the average
28 hospitalization for COPD costing \$12,938, excluding

1 professional fees, in 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, the American Lung Association in Iowa is
3 implementing the Iowa COPD Strategic Plan, a statewide
4 effort to increase early detection, improve care and
5 treatment, and prevent and reduce the prevalence of the
6 disease; and

7 WHEREAS, research has identified a hereditary
8 protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin which
9 predisposes people to developing COPD, even without
10 exposure to smoking or environmental triggers; and

11 WHEREAS, recently the death rate for women with COPD
12 has surpassed the death rate of men with COPD, with
13 women over the age of 40 being the fastest-growing
14 segment of the population developing this irreversible
15 disease, due in large part to the equalization of
16 opportunities for men and women to smoke over the past
17 several generations; and

18 WHEREAS, spirometry testing and medical treatments
19 exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow the
20 progression of the disease, but there is currently no
21 cure for COPD; and

22 WHEREAS, until there is a cure, the best approaches
23 to preventing COPD and its considerable health,
24 societal, and mortality impacts lie with education,
25 awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and
26 management protocols; NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
28 That the House of Representatives recognizes the month
29 of November 2012 as COPD Awareness Month in the State
30 of Iowa in recognition of this deadly disease and its

H.R. 120

1 effects on the citizens of Iowa.