
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 598 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROOKS, BROWN, BURNS,
CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN,
GABLER, HELM, HILL-EVANS, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE,
MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHMITT,
SONNEY, STAATS, VITALI AND ZIMMERMAN, OCTOBER 29, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 29, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2019 as "COPD Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

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

6 WHEREAS, COPD affects millions of individuals in the United
7 States every year; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 12 million adults 18 years of age or
9 older have reported a diagnosis of COPD; and

10 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency
11 room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations and 8 million physician
12 office visits and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are
13 detrimental to the United States economy; and

14 WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in
15 direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

16 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 714,000 Pennsylvania

1 residents and is the fourth leading cause of death in this
2 Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, Research has identified a hereditary protein
4 deficiency called Alpha-1 antitrypsin and determined individuals
5 with this deficiency tend to develop COPD despite the lack of
6 exposure to smoking and other environmental triggers; and

7 WHEREAS, Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has
8 surpassed the death rate for men with COPD; and

9 WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for COPD although
10 spirometry testing and medical treatments exist to address
11 symptom relief and possibly slow progression of the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to
13 preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal and
14 mortality impacts lie in education, awareness and expanded
15 delivery of detection and management protocols; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 month of November 2019 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania
18 to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase
19 the stigma and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order
20 to save lives and reduce health care costs in this Commonwealth.