
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 933 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, CLYMER, DiGIROLAMO, MAJOR, ADOLPH, BEAR,
V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DALEY,
DEASY, EVERETT, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLEN,
GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, HARRIS, HELM, HENNESSEY,
HESS, JAMES, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA,
MAHONEY, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO,
M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK,
ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY,
STABACK, SWANGER, VEREB, WATERS AND WATSON, OCTOBER 17, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER
17, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2012 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 over 24 million individuals in the
7 United States and kills more than 124,000 Americans every year,
8 and on average one person dies from COPD every four minutes; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics
10 released a report stating that, in 2008, COPD became the third
11 leading cause of death in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency
13 room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations and 8 million physician
14 office visits and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are

1 detrimental to the United States' economy; and

2 WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in
3 direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

4 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 655,000 citizens of
5 Pennsylvania and is the fourth leading cause of death in this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Research has identified a hereditary protein
8 deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin, and individuals with this
9 deficiency tend to develop COPD despite the lack of exposure to
10 smoking and other environmental triggers; and

11 WHEREAS, Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has
12 surpassed the death rate of men with COPD, and women over the
13 age of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the population
14 developing this irreversible disease due mostly to the
15 equalization of opportunity over the past several generations
16 for men and women to smoke; and

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of November 2012 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania
26 to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase
27 the stigma and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order
28 to save lives and to reduce health costs in this Commonwealth.