
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 379 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ALLOWAY, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROWNE,
DINNIMAN, EARLL, ERICKSON, FARNESE, FERLO, FONTANA,
GREENLEAF, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, McILHINNEY, VULAKOVICH, SCHWANK,
PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, WARD AND
D. WHITE, OCTOBER 15, 2012

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 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 more than 24 million individuals in the
7 United States and kills more than 124,000 Americans every year,
8 and on average 1 person dies from COPD every 4 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
15 detrimental to the United States' economy; and

16 WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in

1 direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
23 2012 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to promote
24 greater public awareness, enhance education, erase the stigma
25 and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order to save
26 lives and to reduce health costs in this Commonwealth.