

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1055 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, VEREB, REGAN, SONNEY, DUSH, LONGIETTI,
COHEN, HENNESSEY, ROZZI, YOUNGBLOOD, TOOHL, DIGIROLAMO,
MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, SAYLOR, DAVIS, O'BRIEN, BIZZARRO,
KIRKLAND, BOBACK, KNOWLES, WHEELAND, WATSON, ROSS, WARD,
R. BROWN, D. COSTA, CAUSER, PICKETT, HARHART, KINSEY,
READSHAW, ZIMMERMAN, MAHONEY, PAYNE, PHILLIPS-HILL, NEILSON,
MAJOR, GILLEN, MILNE, MCNEILL AND MILLARD, OCTOBER 5, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 5, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2016 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 140,000 Americans every year;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, An estimated 12.7 million adults 18 years of age or
10 older have reported a physician's diagnosis of COPD; and

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

15 WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in

1 direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

2 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 714,000 Pennsylvania
3 residents 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 for men with COPD; and

11 WHEREAS, Women over 40 years of age are the fastest-growing
12 segment of the population developing this irreversible disease,
13 due mostly to the equalization of opportunity over the past
14 several generations 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 House of Representatives designate the
23 month of November 2016 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania
24 to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase
25 the stigma and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order
26 to save lives and to reduce health care costs in this
27 Commonwealth.