

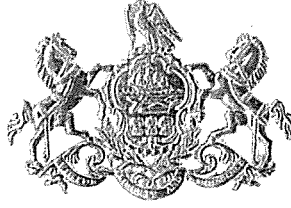
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Senate of Pennsylvania

SEP 12 2012

September 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM:  **Senator Lisa Baker**

SUBJECT: Resolution Designating November 2012 as "COPD Awareness Month"

Please join me in co-sponsoring a resolution designating November 2012 as "COPD Awareness Month."

COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. It affects more than 24 million individuals in the United States and kills more than 124,000 Americans every year. On average, one person dies from COPD every four minutes.

COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations and eight million physician office visits and hospital outpatient visits. The condition affects an estimated 655,000 Pennsylvanians and is the fourth leading cause of death in our state.

Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has surpassed the death rate of men with COPD, and women over the age of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the population developing this irreversible disease. No cure for COPD currently exists, although spirometry testing and medical treatments provide some symptom relief and possibly can slow the progression of the disease.

Until a cure is discovered, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal and mortality effects include education, awareness and the expanded delivery of detection and management protocols.

Please join me in our efforts to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase the stigma of COPD and increase the early diagnosis of this disease.

If you wish to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Liz Clancy at LClancy@pasen.gov or by phone at 787-7428. Thank you.