

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 240 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, KITCHEN, GREENLEAF, SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE,
DINNIMAN, ARGALL, RAFFERTY, MENSCH, BROWNE, PILEGGI, SCHWANK,
BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, BREWSTER, FARNESE AND VULAKOVICH,
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2015 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 and
10 older have reported a physician 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
16 direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

17 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 of men with COPD, and women over 40
9 years of age are the fastest growing segment of the population
10 developing this irreversible disease due mostly to the
11 equalization of opportunity over the past several generations
12 for men and women to smoke; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to
17 preventing COPD and its negative effects on individual health
18 and mortality and its societal impact lie in education,
19 awareness and expanded delivery of detection and management
20 protocols; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
22 2015 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to promote
23 greater public awareness, enhance education, erase the stigma
24 and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order to save
25 lives and to reduce health costs in this Commonwealth.