
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1164 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, BIZZARRO, READSHAW, NEILSON, BURNS, PICKETT,
CORBIN, RYAN, DUSH, SONNEY, DONATUCCI, VITALI, DIGIROLAMO,
LONGIETTI, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, KAUFFMAN, PYLE, MILLARD,
SAYLOR, R. BROWN, HILL-EVANS, WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL,
CALTAGIRONE AND MARSICO, OCTOBER 15, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 15, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2018 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 120,000 Americans every year;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, An estimated 15 million adults 18 years of age or
10 older have reported a diagnosis of COPD; and

11 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 7.3 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

1 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 714,000 Pennsylvania
2 residents and is the fourth leading cause of death in this
3 Commonwealth; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has
9 surpassed the death rate for men with COPD; and

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of November 2018 as "COPD Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania
23 to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase
24 the stigma and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order
25 to save lives and to reduce health care costs in this
26 Commonwealth.