

By Senator Peaden

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Senate Resolution

A resolution to encourage the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health to consider disease management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and unlike many diseases yielding to advances in medicine, COPD death rates are not declining but are the top five causes whose prevalence and death rate are rising, and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic progressive disease that impacts over 910,644 residents of Florida and affects 32 million persons in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the number of women dying from the disease has surpassed the number of men who have lost their lives to the disease, and

WHEREAS, the primary risk factor for COPD is smoking, approximately 80 to 90 percent of COPD deaths are caused by smoking, and female smokers are nearly 13 times as likely to die from COPD as women who have never smoked, and

WHEREAS, male smokers are nearly 12 times as likely to die from COPD as men who have never smoked, and

WHEREAS, other risk factors for COPD include air pollution, second-hand smoke, a history of childhood respiratory infections, and heredity, and

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28 WHEREAS, the health care cost of COPD in Florida was \$948
29 million in 2002, and there were more than 51,482 hospitalizations
30 due to the disease, an increase of 71.6 percent from 1992, and

31 WHEREAS, COPD is a primary cause of hospitalization among
32 the aged population throughout the United States, and 65 percent
33 of hospital discharges in 2005 were in the 65-years-or-older
34 population, and

35 WHEREAS, the annual cost to the nation for COPD in 2007 was
36 estimated to be approximately \$42.6 billion, including \$26.7
37 billion in direct health care expenditures, \$8 billion in
38 indirect morbidity costs, and \$7.9 billion in indirect mortality
39 costs, and

40 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and management of COPD can
41 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of the illness
42 within public programs, such as Medicaid, as well as in the
43 private sector, and

44 WHEREAS, there is no cure for COPD, but proper management of
45 the disease can lead to improved quality of life and self-
46 sufficiency on the part of COPD patients cared for within public
47 programs to slow the damage to the heart and lungs of such
48 patients, NOW, THEREFORE,

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50 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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52 That the Senate encourages the Agency for Health Care
53 Administration and the Department of Health to consider disease
54 management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in an effort
55 to reduce the financial and clinical burden of COPD illness upon
56 the Medicaid program and the residents of Florida.