

By Senator Garcia

40-01416-12

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the founding of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Coalition of Florida and expressing appreciation for the organizers' commitment to raising awareness of this disease.

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and, unlike many diseases yielding to advances in medicine, this disease is not experiencing a decline in death rates, and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic, progressive disease that impacts an estimated 1.8 million Floridians and affects 24 million persons nationwide, with as many as half remaining undiagnosed, and

WHEREAS, the primary risk factor for COPD is smoking, which accounts for up to 90 percent of COPD-related deaths, with other risk factors including environmental exposure, air pollution, secondhand smoke, a history of childhood respiratory infections, and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, \$1.3 billion was spent in Florida on health care costs related to COPD, and there were more than 63,000 hospitalizations due to the disease, and

WHEREAS, nationwide, the annual cost of COPD is nearly \$50 billion, including \$29.5 billion in direct health care expenditures, \$8 billion in indirect morbidity costs, and \$12.4 billion in indirect mortality costs, and

WHEREAS, early COPD screening and detection is critical as

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30 most people with COPD are not diagnosed until they have already  
31 lost half of their lung function, and

32 WHEREAS, coordinated community efforts such as "DRIVE 4  
33 COPD," the nation's single largest awareness and screening  
34 campaign for COPD which has screened more than 2 million people  
35 since its launch in February 2010, can dramatically improve  
36 public health, and

37 WHEREAS, there is no cure for COPD, but proper management  
38 of the disease can lead to improved quality of life and self-  
39 sufficiency for COPD patients, many of whom receive through  
40 public programs care that slows damage to their heart and lungs,  
41 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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45 That the members of the Senate recognize the founding of  
46 the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Coalition of  
47 Florida and express appreciation to the national COPD  
48 Foundation, the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, and  
49 Florida stakeholders for their commitment to raising awareness  
50 of this disease.