

By: Senator Bledsoe

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2014 AS COPD
AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2014
AS COPD AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, COPD affects over 24 million individuals in the United States and kills more than 124,000 Americans every year, and on average 1 person dies from COPD every 5 minutes; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million persons nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70% of whom are under age; and

WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office visits and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are detrimental to the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in direct and indirect health care costs annually; and



WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 7.5% of the state's citizens and is the third-leading cause of death in this state; and

WHEREAS, research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin, and individuals with this deficiency tend to develop COPD despite the lack of exposure to smoking and other environmental triggers; and

WHEREAS, recently the death rate for women with COPD has surpassed the death rate of men with COPD, and women over 40 years of age are the fastest growing segment of the population developing this irreversible disease due mostly to the equalization of opportunity over the past several generations for men and women to smoke; and

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

WHEREAS, until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and mortality impacts lie in education, awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and management protocols,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate designates the month of November 2014 as COPD Awareness Month in Arkansas to promote greater public awareness, enhance education, erase the stigma, and increase early diagnosis of this disease in order to save lives and to reduce health costs in Arkansas.