SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" (COPD) is an umbrella term used to describe progressive lung diseases including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, refractory nonreversible asthma, and some forms of bronchiectasis; and

WHEREAS, In people with COPD, the airways and air sacs in the lungs lose their elastic qualities and cannot bounce back to their original shape and then become swollen and thicker and in some cases partially blocked or obstructed, leading to difficulty breathing and ultimately to the inability to breathe; and

WHEREAS, Smoking is the main risk factor for developing COPD, and secondhand smoke exposure, occupational dust, chemical exposure, air pollution, and genetics are also common causes of COPD; and

WHEREAS, Nationally the COPD Foundation reports that COPD is responsible for direct and indirect health care-related costs projected at $49.9 billion in 2010, and that 70 percent of those costs are related to hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, It is also estimated by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that one out of five individuals over forty in the hospital have COPD; and

WHEREAS, In Texas the prevalence of COPD is 5.5 percent of the total population, and COPD affects individuals across all age groups but at even higher rates for individuals aged 55-64 at 8.1
1 percent and individuals 65 and over at a shocking 13.3 percent; and  
WHEREAS, The American Association for Respiratory Care  
reports that nationally just over half of all persons with COPD  
report that their condition limits their ability to work and 34  
percent say that COPD keeps them from working; and  
WHEREAS, There is no cure for COPD, and its lung damage is  
irreversible; treatments can improve a patient's quality of life by  
reducing frequency and severity of exacerbations, prevent symptoms  
from growing worse, and improving health status; and  
WHEREAS, Treatments for COPD include stopping smoking,  
removing air pollutants from home and work, and treating symptoms  
with medication and pulmonary rehabilitation; and  
WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
reports that in 2011 chronic lower respiratory diseases, which are  
included within the conditions under the umbrella term of COPD, are  
the third-leading cause of death in the United States; and  
WHEREAS, Many individuals who experience shortness of breath  
or other early symptoms of COPD mistake these symptoms as being a  
part of the normal aging process and then wait to receive treatments  
until the conditions are severe and the lung damage is  
significantly more difficult to treat and manage; and  
WHEREAS, Concerted public outreach efforts such as a  
DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening  
campaign for COPD, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood  
Institute's COPD "Learn More Breathe Better Campaign" can  
dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; now, therefore, be  

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RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby recognize Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as a chronic health condition in Texas which contributes to increasing health care costs and decreasing productivity of its citizens; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas direct the Texas Department of State Health Services to include COPD as a chronic health condition in their efforts to address serious and chronic health conditions in Texas by seeking out and applying for funding and grants available to provide public awareness or treatment for COPD in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas direct the Texas Department of State Health Services to include COPD as a chronic health condition in their current efforts to educate the public about the effects of smoking or other preventable and treatable chronic health conditions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate November as COPD Awareness Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, the designation expires on the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is passed by the legislature.
S.C.R. No. 26

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 26 was adopted by the Senate on April 25, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 26 was adopted by the House on May 14, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

14 JUNE '13

Governor