

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2014

SR 13

4
5 By: Senator Bledsoe

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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12 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits,
30 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office visits and hospital
31 outpatient visits, all of which are detrimental to the United States economy;
32 and

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



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

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

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

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

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

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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