

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 792

Expressing support for the designation of November 2022 as “National Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Awareness Month”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of November 2022 as “National Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Awareness Month”.

Whereas an estimated 1 in every 2,500 individuals in the United States have the genetic disorder alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (referred to in this preamble as “Alpha-1”);

Whereas there are an estimated 19,000,000 carriers of Alpha-1 in the United States who may pass Alpha-1 on to their children;

Whereas Alpha-1 can lead to lung destruction and is often misdiagnosed as asthma or smoking-related chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);

Whereas Alpha-1 symptoms relating to the lungs include—

- (1) shortness of breath;
- (2) wheezing;
- (3) chronic bronchitis;
- (4) recurring chest colds;
- (5) less exercise tolerance;
- (6) year-round allergies; and
- (7) bronchiectasis;

Whereas Alpha-1 occurs when there is a lack of a protein in the blood called alpha-1 antitrypsin, which is mainly produced by the liver;

Whereas Alpha-1 symptoms relating to the liver include—

- (1) unexplained liver disease or elevated liver enzymes;
- (2) eyes and skin turning yellow, known as jaundice;
- (3) swelling of the abdomen, known as ascites, or legs; and
- (4) vomiting blood;

Whereas Alpha-1 is the most commonly known genetic risk factor for emphysema;

Whereas Alpha-1 can affect individuals at any age;

Whereas Alpha-1 cannot be diagnosed by symptoms or by a medical examination alone;

Whereas individuals who may have Alpha-1 must take a blood test to confirm a diagnosis;

Whereas early diagnosis and avoiding risk factors, such as smoking, can help prevent Alpha-1 from causing disease; and

Whereas November 2022 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Awareness Month to—

- (1) raise awareness about Alpha-1; and

(2) encourage more individuals to get tested for Alpha-1 if they present symptoms: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate supports the designation  
2 of November 2022 as “National Alpha-1 Antitrypsin De-  
3 ficiency Awareness Month”.

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