

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 59

Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease  
Awareness Month.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. CRAPO submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic Obstructive  
Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month.

Whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (“COPD”) is  
primarily associated with emphysema and chronic bron-  
chitis;

Whereas an estimated 10,000,000 adults in the United States  
have been diagnosed by a physician with COPD;

Whereas an estimated 24,000,000 adults in the United States  
have symptoms of impaired lung function, indicating that  
COPD is underdiagnosed;

Whereas COPD is progressive and is not fully reversible;

Whereas as COPD progresses, the airways and alveoli in the  
lungs lose elasticity and the airway walls collapse, closing  
off smaller airways and narrowing larger ones;

Whereas symptoms of COPD include chronic coughing, shortness of breath, increased effort to breathe, increased mucus production, and frequent clearing of the throat;

Whereas risk factors for COPD include long-term smoking, a family history of COPD, exposure to air pollution or second-hand smoke, and a history of frequent childhood respiratory infections;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD report that their condition limits their ability to work, sleep, and participate in social and physical activities;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD feel they are not in control of their breathing, panic when they cannot catch their breath, and expect their condition to worsen;

Whereas nearly 119,000 adults died in the United States of COPD in 2000, making COPD the fourth leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas COPD accounted for 8,000,000 office visits to doctors, 1,500,000 emergency department visits, and 726,000 hospitalizations by adults in the United States in 2000;

Whereas COPD cost the economy of the United States an estimated \$32,100,000,000 in 2002;

Whereas too many people with COPD are not diagnosed or are not receiving adequate treatment; and

Whereas the establishment of a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month would raise public awareness about the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and the serious problems associated with the disease: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress supports the goals and ideals  
3 of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness  
4 Month.

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