

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 596

Designating September 2016 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2016 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and generally has no known definitive cause;

Whereas as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, the majority of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75;

Whereas the average survival rate for the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis is just 2.8 years and up to 80 percent of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 individuals in the United States each year, approximately 1 death every 13 minutes;

Whereas many patients with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 year or longer after the patients are presenting with pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas as of September 2016, there are no biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure or drug that is effective for all pulmonary fibrosis patients that would extend life or universally improve symptoms does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person to person and include shortness of breath, a dry cough, fatigue, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care to individuals with pulmonary fibrosis requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 2016 as “Pulmonary
3 Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

4 (2) supports the goals and ideals of Pulmonary
5 Fibrosis Awareness Month;

6 (3) continues to support more robust and accel-
7 erated research to develop more effective treatments

1 for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately find a cure
2 for the disease;

3 (4) recognizes the courage and contributions of
4 individuals with pulmonary fibrosis who participate
5 in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of
6 the disease; and

7 (5) commends the dedication of organizations,
8 volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in
9 the United States and abroad working to improve
10 the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fi-
11 brosis and the families of those individuals.

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