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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is an umbrella term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

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WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million individuals in the United States and an estimated 580,000 individuals in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics released a report stating that COPD had become the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 699,000 hospitalizations, and 10.3 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are detrimental to the United States economy; COPD costs the nation an estimated \$49.9 billion in direct and indirect medical costs annually; and

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WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 580,000 citizens of the State of Illinois, with at least as many persons who are estimated to be undiagnosed; Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, including COPD, is the third leading cause of death in the State; the Respiratory Health Association is participating

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1 in statewide efforts to increase early detection, improve care
2 and treatment, and prevent and reduce the prevalence of the
3 disease; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Women over the age of 40 are the fastest growing
9 segment of the population to develop this irreversible disease,
10 due in large part to the equalization of opportunity for men
11 and women to smoke over the past several generations; and

12 WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for COPD; spirometry
13 testing and medical treatments, such as pulmonary
14 rehabilitation, exist to address symptom relief and possibly
15 slow progression of the disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to
17 preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and
18 mortality impacts lie in education, awareness, and expanded
19 delivery of detection and management protocols; and

20 WHEREAS, The Respiratory Health Association and its
21 partners from the Illinois State COPD Plan will work with the

1 Illinois Department of Public Health and other relevant
2 partners to seek opportunities to promote awareness and
3 treatment for COPD; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
6 of November as COPD Awareness Month in the State of Illinois
7 and encourage others to promote education, awareness, and
8 screening of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.