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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

5           WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million individuals  
6 in the United States, and kills more than 120,000 Americans a  
7 year; on average, one person dies from COPD every 4 minutes;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics  
10 releases a report stating that, in 2008, COPD became the third  
11 leading cause of death in the United States; and

12           WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency  
13 room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician  
14 office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are  
15 detrimental to the United States economy; COPD costs the nation  
16 an estimated \$42.6 billion in direct and indirect medical costs  
17 annually; and

18           WHEREAS, The 2010 Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor  
19 Surveillance Survey revealed that over 440,000 Illinoisans  
20 have been diagnosed with COPD; it is estimated that another  
21 440,000 have yet to be diagnosed; and

1           WHEREAS, The Illinois COPD Coalition, convened by the  
2           Respiratory Health Association, continues to implement the  
3           State Plan for Addressing COPD, a plan that outlines  
4           sustainable solutions to improve care and treatment and to  
5           prevent and reduce the prevalence of the disease in Illinois;  
6           and

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

11          WHEREAS, Recently, the death rate for women with COPD has  
12          surpassed the death rate of men with COPD; women over the age  
13          of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the population to  
14          develop this irreversible disease, due in large part to the  
15          equalization of opportunity for men and women to smoke over the  
16          past several generations; and

17          WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for COPD; spirometry  
18          testing and medical treatments, such as pulmonary  
19          rehabilitation, exist to address symptom relief and possibly  
20          slow progression of the disease; and

21          WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, the best approaches to

1 preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and  
2 mortality impacts lie in education, awareness, and expanded  
3 delivery of detection and management protocols; therefore, be  
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we designate the month of November as COPD Awareness Month in  
8 the State of Illinois and urge the citizens of this State to  
9 become more aware of COPD and its effects.