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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is
3 an umbrella term used to describe progressive lung diseases
4 including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, refractory
5 non-reversible asthma, and some forms of bronchiectasis; and

6 WHEREAS, In people with COPD, the airways and air sacs in
7 the lungs lose their elastic qualities and cannot bounce back
8 to their original shape; they then become swollen and thicker
9 and, in some cases, become partially blocked or obstructed,
10 leading to breathing difficulties and, ultimately, the
11 inability to breathe; and

12 WHEREAS, Smoking is the main risk factor for developing
13 COPD; second hand smoke exposure, occupational dust, chemical
14 exposure, air pollution, and genetics are also common causes of
15 COPD; and

16 WHEREAS, Nationally, the COPD Foundation reports that COPD
17 is responsible for direct and in-direct health care related
18 costs projected at \$49.9 billion in 2010; 70% of those costs
19 are related to hospitalizations; and

20 WHEREAS, It is also estimated by the Agency for Healthcare
21 Research and Quality that one out of five individuals over the

1 age of 40 in the hospital have COPD; and

2 WHEREAS, In Illinois, the prevalence of COPD is 6.1% of the
3 total population; COPD affects individuals across all age
4 groups, but at even higher rates for individuals aged 55-64 at
5 8.1% and individuals 65 and over at a shocking 13.3%; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Association for Respiratory Care
7 reports that nationally just over half of all persons with COPD
8 report that their condition limits their ability to work and
9 34% say that COPD keeps them from working; and

10 WHEREAS, There is no cure for COPD and its lung damage is
11 irreversible; however, treatments can improve a patient's
12 quality of life by reducing frequency and severity of
13 exacerbations, prevent symptoms from growing worse, and
14 improving health status; and

15 WHEREAS, Treatments for COPD include the cessation of
16 smoking, removing air pollutants from home and work, and
17 treating symptoms with medication and pulmonary
18 rehabilitation; and

19 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
20 reports that in 2012 "chronic lower respiratory diseases",
21 which are included within the conditions under the umbrella

1 term of COPD, are the 3rd leading cause of death in the United
2 States; and

3 WHEREAS, Many individuals who experience shortness of
4 breath or other early symptoms of COPD mistake these symptoms
5 as being a part of the "normal aging process"; these
6 individuals wait to receive treatments until the conditions are
7 severe and the lung damage is significantly more difficult to
8 treat and manage; and

9 WHEREAS, Concerted public outreach efforts such as
10 DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and
11 screening campaign for COPD, and the National Heart, Lung, and
12 Blood Institute's COPD: Learn More Breathe Better Campaign, can
13 dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we recognize Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder as a
17 chronic health condition in Illinois which contributes to
18 increasing health care costs and decreasing productivity of its
19 citizens; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of Public
21 Health to include COPD as a chronic health condition in its
22 efforts to address serious and chronic health conditions in

1 Illinois by seeking out and applying for funding and grants
2 available to provide public awareness or treatment for COPD in
3 Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of Public
5 Health to include COPD as a chronic health condition in its
6 current efforts to educate the public about the effects of
7 smoking or other preventable and treatable chronic health
8 conditions; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we designate the month of November in 2014
10 as COPD Awareness Month in the State of Illinois.