

## Senate Resolution 1150

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Butler of the 55th, Jones of the 10th, Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May, 2012, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to describe  
4 airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

5 WHEREAS, COPD affects an estimated 24 million people and kills more than 120,000  
6 Americans every year; and

7 WHEREAS, on average, one person died from COPD every four minutes, an alarming  
8 statistic for a disease many have not learned about; and

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

11 WHEREAS, pulmonary experts predict that by 2020, COPD will become the third leading  
12 cause of death world wide; and

13 WHEREAS, COPD currently accounts for 1.5 million emergency room visits, 726,000  
14 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office and hospital outpatient visits, all of which are  
15 a detriment to the United States economy; and

16 WHEREAS, COPD costs the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in direct and indirect medical  
17 costs annually; and

18 WHEREAS, research has identified a hereditary protein deficiency called Alpha-1  
19 Antitrypsin, and people with the deficiency tend to develop COPD even without exposure  
20 to smoking or environmental triggers; and

21 WHEREAS, the recent death rate for women with COPD has surpassed the death rate of  
22 men, and women over the age of 40 are the fastest-growing segment of the population  
23 developing this irreversible disease due in large part to the equalization of opportunities for  
24 men and women to smoke over the past several generations; and

25 WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for COPD, and spirometry testing and medical  
26 treatments only exist to address symptom relief and possibly slow the progression of the  
27 disease; and

28 WHEREAS, the best approach to preventing COPD and its considerable health, societal, and  
29 mortality impacts lie with education, awareness, and expanded delivery of detection and  
30 management protocols.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 encourage citizens to educate themselves about Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and  
33 recognize May, 2012, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.