

House Resolution 1768

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Dudgeon of the 24th, Sims of the 119th, Clark of the 104th, and Watson of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Proclaiming 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; on average, one person dies from COPD every four minutes, an
7 alarming statistic for a disease many are not aware of; and

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

10 WHEREAS, pulmonary experts predict that, by the year 2020, COPD will become the third
11 leading cause of death worldwide; and

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, until there is a cure, the best approaches to preventing COPD and its
26 considerable health, societal, and mortality impacts lie with education, awareness, and
27 expanded delivery of detection and management protocols.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body proclaim May, 2012, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
30 Awareness Month.