

Introduced by

Representatives Hawken, Delmore, N. Johnson, J. Nelson, Weisz

Senators J. Lee, Poolman

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly to recognize the month of
2 November 2013 as "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month" throughout the
3 state in recognition of this deadly disease and its effects on the citizens of North Dakota and
4 encourage all residents of North Dakota to learn more about the prevention and treatment of
5 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

6 **WHEREAS**, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, also known as chronic bronchitis and
7 emphysema, is the third-leading cause of death in the United States and is the second-leading
8 cause of disability; and

9 **WHEREAS**, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a chronic and progressive disease
10 that affects over 24 million individuals in the United States, one-half of whom have not been
11 properly diagnosed and 70 percent of whom are under age 65; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the major risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is smoking.
13 Other risks include environmental and workplace exposure to air pollution, a history of
14 childhood respiratory infection, and genetics; and

15 **WHEREAS**, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease currently accounts for 1.5 million
16 emergency room visits, 726,000 hospitalizations, and 8 million physician office and hospital
17 outpatient visits, all of which are a detriment to the United States economy; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the United States annual cost of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in
19 2010 was estimated to be \$49.39 billion; and

20 **WHEREAS**, one-half of the persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
21 (51 percent) report that their condition limits their ability to work, while 34 percent say that
22 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease keeps them from working and 17 percent say their
23 condition limits them in the kind or amount of work they can do; and

24 **WHEREAS**, early chronic obstructive pulmonary disease screening and a diagnosis test for
25 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease known as spirometry is available for office use, yet most

1 people are not diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of chronic obstructive
2 pulmonary disease; and

3 **WHEREAS**, there is no cure for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and its lung
4 damage is irreversible. Treatments, however, can improve a patient's quality of life and prevent
5 symptoms, reduce the frequency and severity of exacerbation, improve health status, and
6 improve the ability to exercise; and

7 **WHEREAS**, until there is a cure, increased public awareness, early detection, and proper
8 health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs and
9 improved quality of life for our residents;

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**
11 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

12 That the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly recognizes the month of November 2013 as
13 "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month" throughout the state in recognition
14 of this deadly disease and its effects on the citizens of North Dakota and encourages all
15 residents of North Dakota to learn more about the prevention and treatment of chronic
16 obstructive pulmonary disease.