

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 596

Designating September 2016 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating September 2016 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”.

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and generally has no known definitive cause;

Whereas as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, the majority of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75;

Whereas the average survival rate for the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis is just 2.8 years and up to 80 percent of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 individuals in the United States each year, approximately 1 death every 13 minutes;

Whereas many patients with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 year or longer after the patients are presenting with pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas as of September 2016, there are no biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure or drug that is effective for all pulmonary fibrosis patients that would extend life or universally improve symptoms does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person to person and include shortness of breath, a dry cough, fatigue, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care to individuals with pulmonary fibrosis requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates September 2016 as “Pulmonary  
3       Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

4               (2) supports the goals and ideals of Pulmonary  
5       Fibrosis Awareness Month;

6               (3) continues to support more robust and accel-  
7       erated research to develop more effective treatments

1 for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately find a cure  
2 for the disease;

3 (4) recognizes the courage and contributions of  
4 individuals with pulmonary fibrosis who participate  
5 in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of  
6 the disease; and

7 (5) commends the dedication of organizations,  
8 volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in  
9 the United States and abroad working to improve  
10 the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fi-  
11 brosis and the families of those individuals.

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