

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1175

Sponsors: Representative Murry (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to:

May 30, 2012

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY
2 DISEASE (COPD) COALITION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND EXPRESSING
3 APPRECIATION FOR THE ORGANIZERS' COMMITMENT TO RAISING
4 AWARENESS OF THIS DISEASE.

5 Whereas, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes chronic
6 bronchitis and emphysema, is the third leading cause of death in the United States and, unlike
7 many diseases yielding to advances in medicine, this disease is not experiencing a decline in
8 death rates; and

9 Whereas, COPD is a chronic, progressive disease that impacts 24 million persons
10 nationwide, with as many as half remaining undiagnosed; and

11 Whereas, the primary risk factor for COPD is smoking, which accounts for up to
12 90% of COPD-related deaths, with other risk factors including environmental exposure, air
13 pollution, secondhand smoke, a history of childhood respiratory infections, and alpha-1
14 antitrypsin deficiency; and

15 Whereas, nationwide, the annual cost of COPD is nearly \$50 billion, including
16 \$29.5 billion in direct health care expenditures, \$8 billion in indirect morbidity costs, and \$12.4
17 billion in indirect mortality costs; and

18 Whereas, early COPD screening and detection is critical, as most people with
19 COPD are not diagnosed until they have already lost half of their lung function; and

20 Whereas, coordinated community efforts such as "DRIVE 4 COPD," the nation's
21 single largest awareness and screening campaign for COPD, which has screened more than 2
22 million people since its launch in February 2010, can dramatically improve public health; and

23 Whereas, there is no cure for COPD, but proper management of the disease can lead
24 to improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for COPD patients, many of whom receive
25 through public programs care that slows damage to their heart and lungs; and

26 Whereas, bringing about awareness of COPD is a fitting testimonial and tribute to
27 the North Carolinians that have lost their battle with COPD; and

28 Whereas, Ed Brailey, a firefighter, a transplant recipient, and a former member and
29 chair of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Coalition of North Carolina, was affected
30 with genetic COPD, also referred to as Alpha-1; and

31 Whereas, Ed Brailey is emblematic of the many North Carolinians who have died
32 from COPD; Now, therefore,

33 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

34 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the Chronic Obstructive
35 Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Coalition of North Carolina and expresses appreciation to the



1 national COPD Foundation, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and North Carolina
2 stakeholders for their commitment to raising awareness of this disease.

3 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Ed Brailey and
4 others whose lives have been affected by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

5 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.