

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 232
(A-19)

Introduced by: American Thoracic Society
Subject: COPD National Action Plan
Referred to: Reference Committee B
(Charles Rothberg, MD, Chair)

Whereas, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. It includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma; and

Whereas, COPD is the fourth-leading cause of death in the US; and

Whereas, CDC reports that 15.7 million Americans (6.4%) reported that they have been diagnosed with COPD; and

Whereas, CDC report that more than 50% of adults with low pulmonary function were not aware that they had COPD so the actual number patients with COPD may be higher; and

Whereas, The following groups are more likely to have COPD:

- People aged 65 years and older.
- American Indian/Alaska Natives and multiracial non-Hispanics.
- Women.
- Individuals who were unemployed, retired, or unable to work.
- Individuals with less than a high school education.
- Individuals who were divorced, widowed, or separated.
- Current or former smokers.
- People with a history of asthma; and

Whereas, Congress was concerned about COPD in the U.S. and directed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to craft a comprehensive federal plan to tackle the disease; and

Whereas, In response to the Congressional request, the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) collaborated with the CDC, other federal agencies, patient and provider organizations to develop a COPD National Action Plan; and

Whereas, NHLBI has publicly released the COPD National Action Plan that call for programs in 5 areas, including:

1. Empower people with COPD, their families, and caregivers to recognize and reduce the burden of COPD.
2. Improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of COPD by improving the quality of care delivered across the health care continuum.

3. Collect, analyze, report, and disseminate COPD-related public health data that drive change and track progress.
4. Increase and sustain research to better understand the prevention, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment, and management of COPD.
5. Translate national policy, educational, and program recommendations into research and public health care actions; and

Whereas, Federal funding is needed to provide NHLBI and CDC funds to implement initial steps of the COPD National Action Plan; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the inclusion of \$25 million at NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and an additional \$2 million at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the FY2020 Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill to implement the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) National Action Plan (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA send a letter to House and Senate Appropriators conveying its support for the COPD National Action Plan funding for fiscal year 2020. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000.

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