

Oct. 17, 2007  
[H. Con. Res. 182]

NATIONAL IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS  
AWARENESS WEEK—RECOGNITION AND  
SUPPORT

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a serious lung disorder causing progressive, incurable lung scarring;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is one of about 200 disorders called interstitial lung diseases;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common form of interstitial lung disease;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly, often causing disability or death within a few short years;

Whereas there is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas more than 128,000 United States citizens have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and more than 48,000 new cases are diagnosed each year representing a 156-percent increase in mortality since 2001;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is often misdiagnosed or under diagnosed;

Whereas the median survival rate for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients is 2 to 3 years; about two-thirds of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years; and approximately 40,000 patients die each year; and

Whereas a need has been identified to increase awareness and detection of this misdiagnosed and under diagnosed disorder as well as all incarnations of pulmonary fibrosis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

(2) supports the work of advocates and organizations in educating, supporting, and providing hope for individuals who suffer from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, including efforts to organize a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(3) supports the designation of an appropriate week as National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(4) welcomes the issuance of a proclamation designating a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(5) congratulates advocates and organizations for their efforts to educate the public about idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, while funding research to help find a cure for this disorder; and

(6) supports the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week.

Agreed to October 17, 2007.