

1 HJR402
2 160305-2
3 By Representative Johnson (R)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-MAR-14

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE PULMONARY FIBROSIS
4 RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT AND INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR
5 PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH AND COMMENDING BILL CONNELLEY.
6

7 WHEREAS, a total of 40,000 United States citizens
8 lose their lives to Pulmonary Fibrosis, annually, yet a
9 federally funded national awareness or education effort that
10 would enhance understanding of the fatal disease in the public
11 and medical communities is nonexistent; and

12 WHEREAS, Pulmonary Fibrosis, a relentless and
13 progressive disease, which is marked by scarring of the lungs
14 and ultimately inhibits a person's ability to breathe, causes
15 the same amount of deaths as Breast Cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, currently, 48,000 United States citizens
17 are diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis annually, and more than
18 200,000 United States citizens could possibly be living with
19 the debilitating disease; notably, cases of Pulmonary
20 Fibrosis, which have increased more than 150 percent since
21 2001, are expected to continue rising; and

22 WHEREAS, the public's awareness of Pulmonary
23 Fibrosis remains low despite its widespread prevalence;
24 shockingly, the public is more aware of less prevalent
25 diseases than Pulmonary Fibrosis; and

1 WHEREAS, federal funding for Pulmonary Fibrosis
2 research is imperative to fully comprehend the cause of
3 Pulmonary Fibrosis, which at the present time, is not
4 well-understood and is unknown in the majority of cases;
5 growing evidence supports that environmental or occupational
6 exposure to pollutants is potentially a cause; and

7 WHEREAS, a Food and Drug Administration-approved
8 treatment or cure for Pulmonary Fibrosis is not available, and
9 the median survival rate for a patient affected by Pulmonary
10 Fibrosis is 2.8 years; and

11 WHEREAS, the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement
12 Act, the first-ever legislation for Pulmonary Fibrosis
13 research funding, would dramatically assist efforts to help
14 improve the quality of lives of those affected by Pulmonary
15 Fibrosis and save lives; and

16 WHEREAS, celebrities who have helped bring this
17 disease to light include Tom Brokaw and Jay Leno, among
18 others; Jerry Lewis is presently living with the disease, and
19 Marlon Brando, Peter Benchley, and Evel Knievel are just a few
20 well-known figures who have passed away with the disease; and

21 WHEREAS, Bill Connelley of Montgomery, Alabama, has
22 not only valiantly engaged in a battle to overcome his
23 Pulmonary Fibrosis diagnosis, but has encouraged and helped
24 others with the disease; he, along with his family, friends,
25 and neighbors have rallied to raise awareness of Pulmonary

1 Fibrosis, and their magnanimous efforts are highly honored and
2 commended; and

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Bill
5 Connelley and his family and friends for their outstanding
6 efforts to raise public awareness of the issue, and we urge
7 Congress to enact the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Act and
8 increase federal funding for Pulmonary Fibrosis Research. The
9 support of Congress for this ground-breaking initiative would
10 transform and preserve lives.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
12 resolution shall be forwarded to Bill Connelley and to each
13 member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation and to the
14 President of the United States for their immediate
15 consideration and implementation.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 01-APR-14.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

03-APR-14

Adopted