

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 462

Designating November 2021 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month”
and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating November 2021 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among men and women in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas 1 in 15 men and 1 in 17 women in the United States will develop lung cancer during their lifetime;

Whereas it is estimated that, in 2021, 235,760 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 131,880 individuals will die from the disease;

Whereas lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as in women, each year more women die from lung

cancer than breast cancer, and by 2035, it is estimated that more women will die from lung cancer than men;

Whereas disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well-documented, and Black men have the highest incidence of lung cancer and the highest mortality rate from lung cancer of any racial or ethnic group;

Whereas, annually, lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked is the seventh leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for between 17,000 and 26,000 deaths in the United States;

Whereas women who have never smoked are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer than men who have never smoked;

Whereas, in the United States, the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in individuals who have never smoked is increasing;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 60 percent, yet only about 18 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage;

Whereas screening individuals at high risk of lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography can detect lung cancer earlier than other forms of screening and ultimately save lives;

Whereas lung cancer screening can effectively reduce lung cancer mortality, but, annually, only between 2.8 and 7.2 percent of individuals in the United States eligible for lung cancer screening undergo lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography;

Whereas current lung cancer screening guidelines help catch cancer early for individuals at high risk of lung cancer,

leading to a higher likelihood of successful treatment, but can preclude screening for individuals who develop lung cancer, including individuals who have never smoked but have other risk factors, such as family history of lung cancer, exposure to secondhand smoke, or exposure to radon, which is the second leading cause of lung cancer; and

Whereas educational efforts can increase awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening among the general public, patients and their families, and health care workers, thereby increasing the early detection of lung cancer: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates November 2021 as “National
3 Lung Cancer Awareness Month”;

4 (2) supports the purposes and ideals of Na-
5 tional Lung Cancer Awareness Month;

6 (3) promotes efforts to increase awareness of,
7 and education about, lung cancer among individuals
8 in the United States;

9 (4) champions efforts to increase lung cancer
10 screening by raising awareness among, and improv-
11 ing access for, individuals who are eligible for lung
12 cancer screening;

13 (5) recognizes the need for research on the
14 early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lung
15 cancer; and

1 (6) encourages the people of the United States
2 to observe National Lung Cancer Awareness Month
3 with appropriate awareness and educational activi-
4 ties.

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