

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

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE PULMONARY FIBROSIS
9 RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT AND INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR
10 PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH AND COMMENDING BILL CONNELLEY.
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12 WHEREAS, a total of 40,000 United States citizens
13 lose their lives to Pulmonary Fibrosis, annually, yet a
14 federally funded national awareness or education effort that
15 would enhance understanding of the fatal disease in the public
16 and medical communities is nonexistent; and

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

21 WHEREAS, currently, 48,000 United States citizens
22 are diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis annually, and more than
23 200,000 United States citizens could possibly be living with
24 the debilitating disease; notably, cases of Pulmonary
25 Fibrosis, which have increased more than 150 percent since
26 2001, are expected to continue rising; and

1 WHEREAS, the public's awareness of Pulmonary
2 Fibrosis remains low despite its widespread prevalence;
3 shockingly, the public is more aware of less prevalent
4 diseases than Pulmonary Fibrosis; and

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

11 WHEREAS, a Food and Drug Administration-approved
12 treatment or cure for Pulmonary Fibrosis is not available, and
13 the median survival rate for a patient affected by Pulmonary
14 Fibrosis is 2.8 years; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, Bill Connelley of Montgomery, Alabama, has
26 not only valiantly engaged in a battle to overcome his
27 Pulmonary Fibrosis diagnosis, but has encouraged and helped

1 others with the disease; he, along with his family, friends,
2 and neighbors have rallied to raise awareness of Pulmonary
3 Fibrosis, and their magnanimous efforts are highly honored and
4 commended; and

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

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