



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, and includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis; and in some cases, asthma and severe bronchiectasis; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States, and unlike other major causes of death, its prevalence has not significantly declined in recent years; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that has been diagnosed in an estimated 146,000 Nevadans and an estimated 13 million persons nationwide, 66 percent of whom are under age 65; and

WHEREAS, there are indications that COPD is underdiagnosed as an estimated 24 million people have evidence of impaired lung function; and

WHEREAS, smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD; other risk factors include environmental and workplace exposure to air pollution, secondhand smoke, a history of childhood respiratory infections and genetics; and

WHEREAS, recent research has shown that the risk of lung cancer is significantly higher in people with COPD, independent of their smoking history; and

WHEREAS, a genetic condition called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency causes individuals to develop COPD; and

WHEREAS, nationwide the annual cost of COPD in 2010 was projected to be \$49.9 billion through healthcare costs, loss of productivity, and deterioration of personal health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, each year, COPD currently accounts for 2.3 million emergency room visits, 715,000 hospitalizations, and 15 million physician office visits, all of which are a detriment to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, early COPD screening and diagnosis is critical, and though a diagnostic test for COPD known as spirometry is available for office use, most people are not diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of the disease; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for COPD, but increased public awareness, early detection and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease, reduce costs and improve patients' quality of life and self-sufficiency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim November as

COPD Awareness Month



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 24th day of October, 2013.

By the Governor:

Governor

Secretary of State

By _____

Deputy