

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Designating November 2023 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Designating November 2023 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 individuals in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas, in 2023, an estimated 238,340 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 127,070 individuals (approximately 350 individuals per day) will die from the disease;

Whereas 1 in 16 men and 1 in 17 women in the United States will develop lung cancer during their lifetimes;

Whereas the rate of lung cancer death in women in the United States has increased by 92 percent over the 50-year span from 1971 to 2021;

Whereas, each year, more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and ovarian cancer combined;

Whereas, in 2023, 20,500 people will die from lung cancer unrelated to smoking, which would be the eighth leading cause of cancer death if classified as a separate disease;

Whereas 18 percent of lung cancers are unrelated to smoking, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in individuals who have never smoked is increasing in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 103,000 of the 127,070 lung cancer deaths (81 percent) will be caused by cigarette smoking directly, with an additional 3,560 lung cancer deaths caused by second-hand smoke;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 63 percent, yet a majority of lung cancers are diagnosed at a distant stage, for which the 5-year survival rate is 8 percent;

Whereas screening with low-dose computed tomography can detect lung cancer in its earliest stages and ultimately save lives, yet only 3 to 7 percent of individuals in the United States at high risk for lung cancer undergo lung cancer screening;

Whereas geographic availability of facilities and transportation barriers are persistent challenges to lung cancer screening;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of adults are not familiar with lung cancer screening and the low-dose computed tomography scan;

Whereas lung cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in veterans;

Whereas veterans are 25 percent more likely to develop lung cancer compared to the general public, and, although approximately 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 veterans have an elevated risk of lung cancer and are eligible for screening, less than 3 percent of veterans get screened;

Whereas Black men have the highest incidence of lung cancer and the highest mortality rate from lung cancer in the United States, and non-White individuals are 14 to 17 percent less likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer early;

Whereas changes made to the United States Preventive Services Task Force lung cancer screening guidelines in 2021 increased the number of individuals in the United States who are recommended to receive screening from 8,000,000 to 14,500,000;

Whereas the stigma surrounding lung cancer—

(1) creates barriers to early diagnosis, treatment, and research;

(2) has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of lung cancer patients; and

(3) hinders funding into lung cancer risk factors unrelated to smoking;

Whereas lung cancer research is leading to breakthroughs in biomarker identification and the development of immunotherapies and targeted therapies that are highly effective for some cancer subtypes, yet accessing cutting edge testing as part of the lung cancer diagnostic process can be difficult; and

Whereas educational efforts can increase awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening among the general pub-

lic, 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 2023 as “National  
3       Lung Cancer Awareness Month”;

4               (2) designates the first week of November 2023  
5       as “National Women’s Lung Cancer Awareness  
6       Week”;

7               (3) designates the second Saturday of Novem-  
8       ber 2023 as “National Lung Cancer Screening  
9       Day”;

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

12              (5) promotes efforts to increase awareness of,  
13       education about, and research on—

14                      (A) mitigation of risk factors;

15                      (B) lung cancer screening;

16                      (C) treatment of lung cancer;

17                      (D) lung cancer affecting minorities and  
18       individuals who have never smoked; and

19              (6) encourages the people of the United States  
20       to observe National Lung Cancer Awareness Month  
21       with appropriate awareness and educational activi-  
22       ties.