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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Supporting the recognition of November as ''Bladder Health Awareness Month'', supporting efforts to increase public education, reduce stigma, and improve access to care for bladder health conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Supporting the recognition of November as ''Bladder Health Awareness Month'', supporting efforts to increase public education, reduce stigma, and improve access to care for bladder health conditions, and for other purposes.

Whereas bladder health is essential to overall health and well-being;

Whereas normal bladder function, including urine output, is both a vital sign and an accessible whole-body health biomarker for people of all ages, reflecting metabolism, circulation, hydration, nervous system regulation, and overall health, with or without a bladder condition;

Whereas bladder infections and chronic bladder pain conditions, such as interstitial cystitis or bladder pain syndrome, affect 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 people in the United States annually;

Whereas bladder control problems, including overactive bladder and urinary incontinence, affect an estimated 43,000,000, or 1 in 6, United States adults of all ages;

Whereas, in the case of older adults, bladder control issues are a leading cause of institutionalization;

Whereas contributing factors to urinary incontinence and overactive bladder symptoms among men include prostate enlargement and prostate interventions;

Whereas contributing factors to urinary incontinence and overactive bladder symptoms among women include pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause;

Whereas bladder health conditions can significantly impair quality of life, including sleep, work productivity, social withdrawal, and mental health;

Whereas bladder health conditions are linked to serious health consequences such as falls, fractures, urinary tract infections, and skin breakdown;

Whereas stigma, lack of awareness, and misdiagnosis often prevent individuals with bladder health conditions from seeking timely treatment, with time from the onset of symptoms to the initiation of treatment taking on average 7 years, and only 1 in 3 patients ever seeking treatment;

Whereas the total national cost of overactive bladder in the United States is estimated at over $80,000,000,000, including direct costs such as diagnosis, treatment, and

routine care, as well as indirect costs such as lost productivity due to absenteeism and presenteeism;

Whereas improved public education, provider training, and access to care are essential to reduce stigma and improve outcomes for those suffering from bladder health conditions;

Whereas the American Urological Association, the Urology Care Foundation, the National Association for Continence, the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction, and other organizations recognize November as ''Bladder Health Awareness Month'' and provide resources to raise awareness and support affected individuals; and

Whereas increased public awareness and early treatment of bladder conditions will improve quality of life for millions of people in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the recognition of ''Bladder Health Awareness Month'';

(2) recognizes that bladder health is an important issue for individuals of all ages;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of ''Bladder Health Awareness Month'', including increasing public education, reducing stigma, and improving access to care for bladder health conditions;

(4) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and disseminate public information regarding bladder health, including

awareness, incidence, prevalence, risk factors, symptoms, and available treatment options;

(5) urges partnerships with nonprofit organizations, consumer groups, and academic institutions, and public-private initiatives, to promote bladder health education;

(6) supports provider education and evidence-based training for health care professionals in diagnosing and treating bladder health conditions; and

(7) encourages individuals to speak openly about bladder health and seek appropriate medical care.