

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18  
INTRODUCED BY J. COHENOUR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING AND REDUCING THE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL COSTS OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AND ASTHMA IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is the fourth leading cause of death in America; and  
WHEREAS, asthma is the most common chronic disorder in childhood and is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under 15 years of age; and

WHEREAS, both chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma create not only health care costs but also costs in terms of lost productivity at work, increased absences from school, and a decreased ability to enjoy common activities; and

WHEREAS, many people who suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma may be able to alleviate their symptoms, reduce their use of the medical system, and improve their quality of life through better disease management techniques; and

WHEREAS, education is key to disease management and is most effective when it is provided uniformly and widely to those in need of it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study:

- (1) the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma among Montanans;
- (2) the extent to which people suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma are absent from work and school because of the effects of the diseases;
- (3) the programs in place at the state and local level to encourage successful techniques for managing the diseases; and
- (4) efforts undertaken in other states to improve the quality of life for people suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma and to reduce the costs of the diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee seek information from all stakeholders and from the Department of Public Health and Human Services to identify steps that the state could take to address and alleviate the problems posed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded before September 15, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

- END -