

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend CVS Caremark and Louisiana independent community pharmacies for their efforts towards reducing the rate of chronic illness associated with tobacco use by making the decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of the health and well-being of their customers.

WHEREAS, in 2012, more than forty-two million people in the United States, or almost twenty percent of adults, were current smokers; and

WHEREAS, more than sixteen million people in the United States have at least one serious illness caused by smoking; and

WHEREAS, smoking kills more than four hundred eighty thousand Americans each year, representing more deaths from AIDS, alcohol, automobile accidents, murders, suicides, drugs, and fires combined; and

WHEREAS, smoking in pregnancy accounts for an estimated twenty to thirty percent of low-birth weight babies, up to fourteen percent of preterm deliveries, and ten percent of all infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, each day in the United States, approximately four thousand adolescents between the ages of twelve and seventeen try their first cigarette; and

WHEREAS, if current patterns of smoking behaviors continue, an estimated six million four hundred thousand of today's children can be expected to die prematurely from a smoking-related illness; and

WHEREAS, tobacco advertising plays an important role in encouraging young people to begin a lifelong addiction to smoking before they are old enough to fully understand its long-term health risk; and

WHEREAS, as small business entrepreneurships, independent community pharmacies are dynamic, multidimensional healthcare providers who play a critical role in Louisiana's healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, with a strong foundation in its communities, independent community pharmacies lead grass roots public health, civic, and volunteer initiatives and, as such, represent a vital resource; and

WHEREAS, some Louisiana independent community pharmacies have made the decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of the health and well-being of their customers; and

WHEREAS, CVS Caremark has announced that it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products at its more than seven thousand six hundred pharmacy stores across the United States by October 1, 2014, making CVS Caremark the first national pharmacy chain to take this step; and

WHEREAS, the decision of a pharmacy to stop selling tobacco products is consistent with the positions taken by the American Medical Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and American Pharmacists Association that have all publicly opposed tobacco sales in retail outlets with pharmacies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend CVS Caremark and Louisiana independent community pharmacies for their efforts towards reducing the rate of chronic illness associated with tobacco use by making the decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of the health and well-being of their customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president and chief executive officer of CVS Caremark and the chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE