

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the surgeon general of the United States upon the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health.

WHEREAS, on January 11, 1964, the first United States governmental report on the negative consequences of smoking was released by then United States Surgeon General Dr. Luther Terry; and

WHEREAS, the initial report and thirty subsequent reports released by the United States surgeon general have increased the nation's understanding of the devastating health and financial burdens caused by tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use causes various types of cancer, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pregnancy complications, and a host of other diseases and conditions; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2014, more than forty-three million adults of the United States smoke, more than eight million of these adults live with a serious illness caused by smoking, and more than four hundred forty thousand people of the United States die prematurely each year as a result of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health has opened the way for a series of important public health initiatives aimed at reducing the burden of tobacco use, including the addition of health warnings to cigarette packages, bans on cigarette advertising in the broadcast media, and the removal of fruit flavoring that appeal to children from cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, tobacco control policies and public health initiatives aimed at curbing tobacco use contributed to a decrease in the prevalence of smoking by people of the United States from forty-two percent in 1965, to eighteen percent in 2012; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use remains one of the most pressing public health concerns of the United States and is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as discussed in previous surgeon general reports, there are proven health benefits for those who quit smoking; and

WHEREAS, just one year after quitting smoking, the risk of a heart attack drops sharply and, within two to five years of quitting smoking, the risk of stroke falls to about the same as a nonsmoker; and

WHEREAS, within five years of quitting smoking, the risks for cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder drop by half and the risk for lung cancer drops by half within ten years after quitting smoking; and

WHEREAS, upon the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the first Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health, the Office of the United States Surgeon General continues to work to increase awareness of the lessons learned and the progress that has taken place during the last fifty years of tobacco control efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the surgeon general of the United States upon the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Acting Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE