

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 168

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2011

Mr. STEARNS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENT OF PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS,**  
4 **TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRON-**  
5 **IC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE.**

6 (a) TREATMENT OF COPD.—Subject to the avail-  
7 ability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the  
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

1           (1) develop treatment protocols and related  
2 tools for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and  
3 management of chronic obstructive pulmonary dis-  
4 ease; and

5           (2) improve biomedical and prosthetic research  
6 programs regarding chronic obstructive pulmonary  
7 disease.

8           (b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Subject to the availability of  
9 appropriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary  
10 of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Director of  
11 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Direc-  
12 tor of the Indian Health Service, and the Administrator  
13 of the Health Resources and Services Agency, shall de-  
14 velop pilot programs to demonstrate best practices for the  
15 diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pul-  
16 monary disease.

17           (c) SMOKING CESSATION.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of  
19 appropriations provided for such purpose, the Sec-  
20 retary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the  
21 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
22 vention, shall develop improved techniques and best  
23 practices for assisting individuals with chronic ob-  
24 structive pulmonary disease in successfully quitting  
25 smoking.

1           (2) UNIQUE NEEDS OF COPD PATIENTS.—In  
2 carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary—

3           (A) shall identify subpopulations of individ-  
4 uals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
5 that have unique needs with respect to quitting  
6 smoking; and

7           (B) may conduct research to determine  
8 whether the techniques and best practices devel-  
9 oped under paragraph (1) are different from  
10 techniques and best practices used to assist in-  
11 dividuals with other chronic diseases in success-  
12 fully quitting smoking.

○