AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
Fighting for Air

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Letter sent to House and Senate Sponsors

The American Lung Association is writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2505, the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act. The bill offers an opportunity to promote the health of Americans living with pulmonary fibrosis by creating the first federally funded national awareness and educational effort to improve understanding of pulmonary fibrosis in the public and medical communities.

Pulmonary fibrosis is a progressive and fatal lung disease that causes 40,000 deaths annually in the United States. The cause of pulmonary fibrosis is not well understood, and there is no treatment or cure. Most people with pulmonary fibrosis live only three to five years after their diagnosis.

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act establishes a National Pulmonary Fibrosis Advisory Board and Registry to collect data and make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services as part of a pulmonary fibrosis review. In addition to creating much needed information about people living with pulmonary fibrosis, this bill creates additional benefits for people living with various lung diseases by having the advisory board collect data about other lung diseases and disorders. The bill also requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prepare a comprehensive National Pulmonary Fibrosis Education and Awareness Plan in consultation with the Advisory Board. This plan will focus on accelerating public, patient and physician education strategies to improve diagnosis and treatment standards with respect to pulmonary fibrosis.

The American Lung Association applauds you for your commitment to pulmonary fibrosis research and for introducing this important legislation. It is our sincere hope that the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act will be enacted into law this year.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Conner
President and CEO