

Sponsor: Representative Karen Camper, Tennessee

Resolution: Support to Expand Asthma Education Nationwide

Whereas, asthma is a long-term disease that causes inflammation and swelling of the airways. This results in narrowing of the airways that carry air from the nose and mouth to the lungs.

Whereas, asthma symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing, and tightness in the chest and can be triggered by different things for different people, such as dust, pet dander, certain foods, or exercise.

Whereas, in the United States 25,100,000 people had been diagnosed with asthma, including an estimated 6,200,000 children.

Whereas, the burden of asthma in the US falls disproportionately on people with low income, senior adults, Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native people.

Whereas, asthma rates are highest in Black adults in the US and non-Hispanic Black children are more than two times more likely to have asthma compared to non-Hispanic white children. It is a leading chronic disease in children.

Whereas, asthma can be deadly and is one of the most common and costly diseases in the United States. The mortality from asthma is nearly three times higher in Black people and women.

Whereas, there is no cure for asthma, but appropriate treatment prevents asthma attacks and help patients have a better quality of life.

Whereas, asthma accounted for 4.9 million doctor office visits, accounted for 169,330 discharges from hospital inpatient care and 1.5 million emergency department visits in 2019.

Whereas, Black people with asthma in the US are six times more likely than white people to visit the emergency department due to complications.

Whereas, the annual economic cost of asthma was more than 81.9 billion, including medical costs, loss of work and school days.

Whereas, public health interventions and medical care in accordance with existing guidelines have been proven effective in the treatment and management of asthma. Better asthma management could reduce the numbers of emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to asthma.

And Whereas, policies that facilitate access to innovative treatments for asthma and related type two inflammatory conditions should be a priority for states.

Therefore, let it be Resolved that **NOBEL, The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women**, urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collaborate with national, State, and local nonprofit organizations to provide information that incorporates public health responses and education about asthma to help reduce the burden, particularly regarding disproportionately affected populations, and to strengthen such collaborations when possible.

Upon adoption of this resolution a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the public welfare requiring it.