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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
CHAIRMAN  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AND OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join the Congressional Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Caucus.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. It includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma. COPD (Primarily chronic lower respiratory disease) is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. Over 15 million Americans annually report a COPD diagnosis; alarmingly, more than 50 percent of adults with low pulmonary function were not aware of their COPD status.

The COPD Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral coalition of members who are committed to raising awareness and improving COPD public policy. In response to the caucus' inquiries and work, the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal partners to create the COPD National Action Plan. Released last year, the COPD National Action Plan established five preliminary goals to address COPD in the U.S.:

- Empowering people with COPD, their families, and caregivers to recognize and reduce the burden of COPD
- Improving the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of COPD
- Collect, analyze, report, and disseminate COPD-related public health data
- Increasing and sustaining COPD research
- Translating national policy, educational, and program recommendations into research and public health care actions

We remain committed to realizing the goals of the National Action Plan, and we hope that you will consider joining the bipartisan, bicameral, Congressional COPD Caucus and supporting our efforts to help bring much-needed attention and resources to these prevalent diseases.

For more information or to join the COPD Caucus, please contact staff Thomas Dorney in Rep. Lewis' Office at [thomas.dorney@mail.house.gov](mailto:thomas.dorney@mail.house.gov), or Luci Arveseth in Rep. Stewart's Office at [luci.arveseth@mail.house.gov](mailto:luci.arveseth@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress