

*Note: Phone calls are most effective so please consider leaving a message with your gratitude with those who answer the phones in your representative and senators' DC offices. You can find this info and transmit a message via the COPD Action Center at <https://www.votervoice.net/COPD/campaigns/53173/respond>. Please use this link when sharing on social media.*

*Template Message Text for COPD Caucus Members*

As your constituent and an individual affected by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. I am writing to thank you for being a member of the Congressional COPD Caucus. As a member of the COPD Caucus you are showing your support for the 16 million Americans with COPD and the millions who have it but don't yet know it. (Add relevant state info: "As you man know, in (state), more than XXXX people are living with COPD.") Your efforts have helped progress the COPD National Action Plan, released in May 2017, and have led to important policy changes such as relaxing air travel restrictions on oxygen, allowing millions to fly once again.

Co-Chaired by Senators Durbin and Crapo and Representative Chris Stewart, the bipartisan COPD Caucus now includes nearly 40 members fighting to improve the lives of those with COPD.

As a reminder, COPD includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and in some cases, asthma. While most cases are caused by tobacco exposure, fumes, chemicals, dust and genetics also play a role in developing COPD, even if the person has never used tobacco. One in four people living with COPD has never smoked. COPD is a progressive disease that makes it hard to breathe and causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations every year and over 150,000 deaths each year.

Thank you again for standing with the COPD community as a member of the COPD Caucus and bringing attention and support to this leading cause of death. I hope you will join me in encouraging the rest of our state's congressional delegation to join the Caucus at this critical time for advancing the implementation of the COPD National Action Plan. The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the COPD Foundation and other community organizations have resources available to your constituents should you wish to spread the word to the public about the risk factors, symptoms and action that can lead to earlier identification and a better life for those with COPD.

We can improve lives and lower costs for this deadly and devastating disease with your help.