House Resolution (H. Res. 703): Supports the designation of November 2016 as “National Bladder Health Month”

The issue: Establishing a federally designated awareness month for bladder health will help to reduce the stigma associated with these conditions and empower providers and patients to discuss bladder health concerns.

Tens of millions of Americans are affected by bladder diseases and conditions including urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, underactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, nocturia, urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, urotrauma and neurogenic bladder. These diseases impact health and quality of life, and result in significant health costs. Medical and behavioral research to better understand and maintain bladder health and to treat bladder conditions is critically needed yet is neglected and underfunded compared to other health research.

Fast facts about bladder health:

- Bladder diseases and conditions cost the United States economy an estimated $70 billion each year
- Nursing home admissions due to urinary incontinence alone are estimated to cost $6 billion each year
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) cause more than eight million provider visits each year (more than 1.3 billion for children, more than 1.2 million for men and more than 5.3 million for women)
- More than 575,000 Americans live with bladder cancer. An estimated 77,000 will be diagnosed this year, and an estimated 16,400 will die from the disease. Bladder cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans Affairs (VA) Health System patients
- One-third of Americans ages 40 and older report having some level of urinary incontinence at least “sometimes”


Ask your Congressman to:

- Co-sponsor H. Res. 703, introduced by U.S. Representative Eliot Engel (NY-16)

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