

For Immediate Release

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Resolutions to Support Men's Health Pass Through Congress
Members support development of innovative advanced imaging for early diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer

Washington (June 26, 2008) – During Men's Health Month (June), the United States Congress highlighted the need to address men's health by issuing several resolutions in support of men's health. With the passage of H. Res. 353, the House of Representatives expressed the need to develop innovative advanced imaging technologies for prostate cancer detection and treatment. The resolution was introduced by Representatives Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) and Dan Burton (R-Ind.) and received strong bi-partisan support.

The development of advanced prostate imaging technology can help men detect and treat prostate cancer. Current screening methods include the use of the Prostate Specific Anti-gen (PSA) blood test and the Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) in the detection of prostate cancer. Although these screenings are effective in gauging prostate health, they are not the most effective indicators of cancer. Using these methods, the doctor is unable to see the exact location of the cancer and must use a needle biopsy to detect the infected area. Prostate imaging technology will fill the missing link between DRE and the needle biopsy. With imaging, both the doctor and the patient will be able to see the cancerous area of the prostate. As a result, the doctor and patient will be able to make the most educated decision about treatment.

In keeping with the commitment to improve the health of men in the country, the U.S. Senate (S. Res. 585) and House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 138) declared the week leading up to Father's Day, June 9 -15, 2008, National Men's Health Week. The purpose of National Men's Health Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. The week gives health care providers, public policy makers, the media, and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. In 2008, the response has been overwhelming with hundreds of awareness activities in the United States and around the globe.

With the passage of these resolutions, the United States Congress has recognized the need for increased awareness and investment into men's health. Men's Health Network looks forward to continued work with Congress regarding its support of National Men's Health Week and Men's Health Month. In addition, we hope that the Congress will act on these resolutions and invest more resources into men's health such as advanced imaging technology for prostate cancer.