



## H.R. 6568 – Tom Lantos Pulmonary Hypertension Research and Education Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6568 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Kevin Brady (R-TX) on July 22, 2008. The Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on September 23, 2008.

H.R. 6568 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 25, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6568 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate a public awareness campaign regarding pulmonary hypertension. The Secretary must report to Congress by September 30, 2009. This bill authorizes \$2.5 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2011 for this purpose.

H.R. 6568 also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate an awareness campaign regarding pulmonary hypertension among health care providers (cardiologists, rheumatologists, pediatricians). The Secretary must report to Congress by September 30, 2009. This bill authorizes \$2.5 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2011 for this purpose.

The bill directs the Government Accountability Office to study Medicare and Medicaid coverage standards for pulmonary hypertension therapies.

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### BACKGROUND

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is an increase in blood pressure in the pulmonary artery, pulmonary vein, or pulmonary capillaries, which often leads to shortness of breath, dizziness, and fainting.

PH is a serious condition for which there are treatments but no cure. Treatment benefits many patients, according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. There are two main kinds of pulmonary hypertension. One version of the disease is genetic or appears for no known reason. The other kind is directly related to another condition, usually heart or lung disease.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), who passed away on February 11, 2008 due to complications from esophageal cancer. Congressman Lantos represented the Twelfth District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981-2008.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6568 as of September 24, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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