

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6753

To provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp on the subject of inflammatory bowel disease.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. PALLONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp on the subject of inflammatory bowel disease.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are  
6 chronic and painful inflammatory diseases of the  
7 gastrointestinal tract which are difficult to diagnose  
8 due their invisible symptoms and similarity to other  
9 intestinal disorders;

1           (2) Crohn’s disease may occur in any section of  
2 the gastrointestinal tract but is predominantly found  
3 in the lower part of the small intestine and the large  
4 intestine;

5           (3) ulcerative colitis is characterized by inflam-  
6 mation and ulceration of the innermost lining of the  
7 colon, and complete removal of the colon in patients  
8 with ulcerative colitis can alleviate symptoms;

9           (4) because Crohn’s disease and ulcerative coli-  
10 tis behave similarly, they are collectively known as  
11 inflammatory bowel disease;

12           (5) both Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis  
13 present a variety of symptoms, including severe diar-  
14 rhea, dehydration, lack of appetite, weight loss, nu-  
15 tritional deficiencies, abdominal pain with cramps,  
16 fever, and rectal bleeding;

17           (6) while there is no known cause or medical  
18 cure for inflammatory bowel disease, current evi-  
19 dence suggests that genetics, bacteria, and environ-  
20 mental factors may play a role;

21           (7) it is estimated that up to 1,400,000 people  
22 in the United States are afflicted with inflammatory  
23 bowel disease;

24           (8) it is believed that there are an additional  
25 600,000 Americans who have inflammatory bowel

1 disease, but whose condition is either misdiagnosed  
2 or undiagnosed, thereby resulting in their failure to  
3 receive proper treatment;

4 (9) approximately 110 persons ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of whom are  
5 adolescents) are diagnosed with inflammatory bowel  
6 disease in this country each day;

7 (10) inflammatory bowel disease affects ap-  
8 proximately 100,000 children under the age of 18  
9 and has been detected in infants just months old,  
10 with the disease's "second wave" developing in  
11 adults over the age of 50;

12 (11) inflammatory bowel disease accounts for  
13 an estimated 200,000 hospitalizations in the United  
14 States each year;

15 (12) the annual cost in missed workdays for  
16 Americans with inflammatory bowel disease is esti-  
17 mated to be in the billions of dollars or about \$5,500  
18 per patient with active disease;

19 (13) approximately 200,000 patients with in-  
20 flammatory bowel disease receive some form of per-  
21 manent work disability compensation from the Social  
22 Security Administration;

23 (14) these patients have reported low quality of  
24 life and persistent, systemic, active disease requiring  
25 frequent surgical intervention or hospitalization,

1 thus impacting their ability to work and function  
2 normally;

3 (15) children with inflammatory bowel disease  
4 miss school and related activities because the disease  
5 often becomes too painful and a constant feature of  
6 their lives;

7 (16) an estimated  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of children with  
8 Crohn's disease will undergo multiple surgical oper-  
9 ations in their lifetime to remove permanently  
10 scarred intestinal tissue, thus putting them at risk  
11 for developing short bowel syndrome and other life-  
12 threatening complications;

13 (17) 60 to 90 percent of children with recurrent  
14 Crohn's disease will experience growth failures, and  
15 many adults who have onset of bowel disease as chil-  
16 dren experience delayed puberty and impaired  
17 growth, and never reach their full genetic growth po-  
18 tential;

19 (18) inflammatory bowel disease also puts pa-  
20 tients at high risk for developing colorectal cancer;

21 (19) the Federal Government, public and pri-  
22 vate organizations, healthcare providers, and the  
23 medical community are striving to work together  
24 more closely in order to improve the quality of life  
25 of children and adults affected by Crohn's disease;

1           (20) the United States Postal Service has  
2 issued stamps featuring critical causes in need of  
3 medical or social awareness in line with the criteria  
4 set out by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee;  
5 and

6           (21) the breast cancer semipostal research  
7 stamp has now become the best-selling postage  
8 stamp in United States history, raising over  
9 \$60,000,000 for breast cancer research.

10 **SEC. 2. INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE COMMEMORA-**  
11 **TIVE POSTAGE STAMP.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General shall  
13 issue a commemorative postage stamp on the subject of  
14 Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, 2 chronic digestive  
15 diseases collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease.

16           (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Such stamp—

17               (1) shall be issued in the denomination used for  
18 first-class mail up to 1 ounce in weight and bear  
19 such design as the Postmaster General shall deter-  
20 mine; and

21               (2) shall be placed on sale as soon as prac-  
22 ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act  
23 and sold for such period of time as the Postmaster  
24 General shall determine.

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