

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1049

4
5 By: Representative M. Gray

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS
9 MONTH.

10
11
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS
14 AWARENESS MONTH.

15
16 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as “CF”, is a genetic
17 disease affecting approximately thirty thousand (30,000) children and adults
18 in the United States, and nearly seventy thousand (70,000) children and
19 adults worldwide, more than two hundred eighty (280) of whom live in
20 Arkansas; and

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22 WHEREAS, individuals with CF have a defective gene that causes the body
23 to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and these
24 secretions produce life-threatening lung infections and obstruct the
25 pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes from reaching the intestines to help
26 break down and absorb food; and

27
28 WHEREAS, more than ten million (10,000,000) Americans are symptomless
29 carriers of the CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately one (1) out of every
30 three thousand five hundred (3,500) live births in the United States; and

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32 WHEREAS, in the United States, the median age of survival for a person
33 with CF is forty-six (46) years of age for males and forty-one (41) years of
34 age for females; the number of adults with CF has steadily grown; and
35 approximately one thousand (1,000) new cases of CF are diagnosed each year;
36 and



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2 WHEREAS, fifty-six percent (56%) of the CF population is eighteen (18)
3 years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms
4 attributed to the more than one thousand seven hundred (1,700) mutations of
5 the CF gene; and

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7 WHEREAS, infant blood screening to detect genetic defects is the most
8 reliable and least costly method to identify persons likely to have CF; and

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10 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances
11 quality of life and longevity; and the treatment of CF depends on the stage
12 of the disease and the organs involved; and

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14 WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the
15 daily CF treatment regimen, along with treatments including inhaled
16 antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

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18 WHEREAS, there are two (2) world-class treatment centers in Arkansas
19 that specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of individuals with CF,
20 located within Arkansas Children's Hospital and the University of Arkansas
21 for Medical Sciences; and

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23 WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF is access to
24 innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients
25 with CF; and

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27 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF
28 starts with awareness,

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
32 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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34 THAT the House of Representatives recognize the importance of awareness
35 of cystic fibrosis and designate the month of May 2021 as Cystic Fibrosis
36 Awareness Month.