

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4
5 By: Senator J. English
6

SR 20

7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 DESIGNATING MAY 2017 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS
9 MONTH.

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11
12 **Subtitle**

13 DESIGNATING MAY 2017 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS
14 AWARENESS MONTH.
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17 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF", is a genetic
18 disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United
19 States, and nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, more than 250 of
20 whom live in Arkansas; and
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22 WHEREAS, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally
23 thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and these secretions produce life-
24 threatening lung infections and obstruct the pancreas, preventing digestive
25 enzymes from reaching the intestines to help break down and absorb food; and
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27 WHEREAS, more than 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the
28 CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately 1 out of every 3,500 live births in
29 the United States; and
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31 WHEREAS, the median age of survival for a person with CF is 41 years;
32 the number of adults with CF has steadily grown; and approximately 1,000 new
33 cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and
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35 WHEREAS, nearly 50% of the CF population is 18 years of age and older,
36 and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than



1 1,800 mutations of the CF gene; and

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

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6 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances
7 quality of life and longevity; and the treatment of CF depends on the stage
8 of the disease and the organs involved; and

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

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14 WHEREAS, there are 2 world-class treatment centers in Arkansas that
15 specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

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

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21 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF
22 starts with awareness,

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the Senate recognizes the importance of awareness of cystic
29 fibrosis and designates the month of May 2017 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
30 Month.

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate
33 copy shall be provided to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by the Secretary of
34 the Senate.