

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 238

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 2018 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, known as CF, affects cells that produce mucus, perspiration, and digestive juices in the human body; and

WHEREAS, these normally thin, slippery fluids are rendered thick and sticky, and rather than acting as lubricants, the cells affected by CF plug tubes, ducts, and passageways, especially in the lungs and pancreas; and

WHEREAS, CF affects roughly seventy thousand people around the world, and thirty thousand of those adults and children live in the United States; and

WHEREAS, advances in treatment and improvements leading to earlier detection of this disease have led to people living longer with CF; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world, more than half of those living with CF are children, and one thousand new cases of this disabling condition are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, CF is a genetic defect, and in order for a child to have CF, both parents must carry the defective gene, which is recessive, and pass the flawed gene on to the child; and

WHEREAS, CF causes progressive damage to the respiratory system, and chronic digestive system problems are among the most common manifestations of CF; and

WHEREAS, respiratory damage is caused by mucus build-up in the lungs and bacterial infections which eventually lead to permanent lung damage, including the formation of scar tissue or fibrosis which impedes the ability of the lungs to inflate and deflate; and

WHEREAS, CF affects a specific protein called cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator that controls the normal movement of chloride, as well as water, in and out of cells throughout the body; and

WHEREAS, CF causes the ducts of the pancreas to become blocked, causing fibrosis of the pancreas which causes reduced absorption of fat and vitamins and can result in cystic fibrosis-related diabetes; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all those affected with CF today are over eighteen years of age; and

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

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances the life expectancy and improves the quality of life of those living with CF; and

WHEREAS, the average life expectancy of those with CF has been steadily increasing since the 1950s and is currently near forty years; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF includes access to innovative treatments which can affect both longevity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, improving both length and quality of life for people with CF begins with earlier diagnosis and a greater awareness of the disease and its consequences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 2018 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Chapter - Baton Rouge of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE