

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To designate the month of May 2021 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Cystic Fibrosis, commonly referred to as CF, is a genetic disease affecting approximately thirty thousand children and adults in the United States and nearly seventy thousand children and adults worldwide, approximately three hundred fifty of whom live in Louisiana; and

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

WHEREAS, more than ten million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately one in every three thousand five hundred live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the median age of survival for a person with CF is forty-six years; and

WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults living with CF has steadily grown, and approximately one thousand new cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of persons with CF are eighteen years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than one thousand seven hundred mutations of the CF gene; and

WHEREAS, an 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 quality of life and longevity, and the treatment of CF depends on the stage of the disease and the organs involved; and

WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the daily CF treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes; and

WHEREAS, there are four world-class treatment centers in Louisiana which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF includes access to innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with CF; 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 the month of May 2021 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE