

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2022 AS CYSTIC  
FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF," is a genetic disease affecting over 31,000 children and adults in the United States and over 70,000 children and adults worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, a defective gene known as CFTR 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 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective CFTR gene; and

**WHEREAS**, the median predicted age of survival for a person with CF is 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of adults with CF has steadily grown, and approximately 700 new cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 57 percent of the CF population is 18 years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 2,000 variants in the CFTR gene; 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 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, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 3 world-class treatment centers in this State that specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

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

**WHEREAS**, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF starts with awareness; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 2022 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.