INTERIM RESOLUTION 2015-005

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF MAY 2016 AS "CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF," is a genetic disease affecting approximately thirty thousand (30,000) children and adults in the United States and nearly seventy thousand (70,000) children and adults worldwide, more than two hundred fifty (250) of whom live in this state; and

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis is caused by 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 that aid in the breakdown and absorption of food from reaching the intestines; and

WHEREAS, more than ten million (10,000,000) Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective cystic fibrosis gene, and cystic fibrosis occurs in approximately one (1) of every three thousand five hundred (3,500) live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the predicted median age of survival for a person with cystic fibrosis is forty-one and one-tenth (41.1) years of age; and

WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, the number of adults with cystic fibrosis has steadily grown, and approximately one thousand (1,000) new cases of cystic fibrosis are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, nearly fifty percent (50%) of the cystic fibrosis population is eighteen (18) years of age and older, and people with cystic fibrosis have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than one thousand eight hundred (1,800) mutations of the cystic fibrosis gene; and

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

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of cystic fibrosis permits early treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity, and the treatment of cystic fibrosis 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 cystic fibrosis treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

WHEREAS, there are two (2) world-class treatment centers in this state that specialize in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis and the care of persons with cystic fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with cystic fibrosis includes access to innovative treatments which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with cystic fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis starts with awareness,

NOW THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council designate the month of May 2016 as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month” in Arkansas

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jim Hendren
District 2

By: ANS/JLC