

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2017-001

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF
4 MAY 2018 AS "CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN ARKANSAS.
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6 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF", is a genetic
7 disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United
8 States and nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, nearly 300 of whom
9 live in this state; and
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11 WHEREAS, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally
12 thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and these secretions produce life-
13 threatening lung infections and obstruct the pancreas, preventing digestive
14 enzymes from reaching the intestines to help break down and absorb food; and
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16 WHEREAS, more than 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the
17 defective CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately 1 of every 3,500 live
18 births in the United States; and
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20 WHEREAS, the median age of survival for a person with CF is 33.4 years;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults
24 with CF has steadily grown, and approximately 1,000 new cases of CF are
25 diagnosed each year; and
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27 WHEREAS, nearly 50% of the CF population is 18 years of age and older,
28 and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than
29 1,800 mutations of the CF gene; and
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31 WHEREAS, infant blood screening to detect mutations in the CF gene is
32 the most reliable and least costly method to identify persons more likely to
33 develop CF; and
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1 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances
2 quality of life and longevity, and the treatment of CF depends on the stage
3 of the disease and the organs involved; and
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5 WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the
6 daily CF treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include inhaled
7 antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and
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9 WHEREAS, there are 2 world-class treatment centers in this state that
10 specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and
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12 WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF includes
13 access to innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives
14 of patients with CF; and
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16 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF
17 starts with awareness,
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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 THAT the Legislative Council designate the month of May 2018 as "Cystic
24 Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Arkansas.
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27 Respectfully submitted,
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31 Senator Cecile Bledsoe
32 District 3
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34 Prepared by: KLC/KLC
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