

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

SR 27

4  
5 By: Senator Irvin

6  
7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS  
9 MONTH.

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11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS  
14 AWARENESS MONTH.

15  
16 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF", is a genetic  
17 disease affecting approximately thirty thousand (30,000) children and adults  
18 in the United States, and nearly seventy thousand (70,000) children and  
19 adults worldwide, more than two hundred eighty (280) of whom live in  
20 Arkansas; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, individuals with CF have a defective gene that causes the body  
23 to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and these  
24 secretions produce life-threatening lung infections and obstruct the  
25 pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes from reaching the intestines to help  
26 break down and absorb food; and

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

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32 WHEREAS, in the United States, the median age of survival for a person  
33 with CF is forty-six (46) years of age for males and forty-one (41) years of  
34 age for females; the number of adults with CF has steadily grown; and  
35 approximately one thousand (1,000) new cases of CF are diagnosed each year;  
36 and



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2           WHEREAS, fifty-six percent (56%) of the CF population is eighteen (18)  
3 years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms  
4 attributed to the more than one thousand seven hundred (1,700) mutations of  
5 the CF gene; and

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

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10           WHEREAS, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances  
11 quality of life and longevity; and the treatment of CF depends on the stage  
12 of the disease and the organs involved; and

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14           WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the  
15 daily CF treatment regimen, along with treatments including inhaled  
16 antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

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18           WHEREAS, there are two (2) world-class treatment centers in Arkansas  
19 that specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of individuals with CF,  
20 located within Arkansas Children's Hospital and the University of Arkansas  
21 for Medical Sciences; and

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

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27           WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF  
28 starts with awareness,

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
32 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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34           THAT the Senate recognize the importance of awareness of cystic  
35 fibrosis and designate the month of May 2021 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness  
36 Month.