

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2015-005

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3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE MONTH  
4 OF MAY 2016 AS "CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN ARKANSAS.  
5

6 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF," is a genetic  
7 disease affecting approximately thirty thousand (30,000) children and adults  
8 in the United States and nearly seventy thousand (70,000) children and adults  
9 worldwide, more than two hundred fifty (250) of whom live in this state; and  
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11 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis is caused by a defective gene that causes the  
12 body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and  
13 these secretions produce life-threatening lung infections and obstruct the  
14 pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes that aid in the breakdown and  
15 absorption of food from reaching the intestines; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, more than ten million (10,000,000) Americans are symptomless  
18 carriers of the defective cystic fibrosis gene, and cystic fibrosis occurs in  
19 approximately one (1) of every three thousand five hundred (3,500) live births  
20 in the United States; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the predicted median age of survival for a person with cystic  
23 fibrosis is forty-one and one-tenth (41.1) years of age; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, the number  
26 of adults with cystic fibrosis has steadily grown, and approximately one  
27 thousand (1,000) new cases of cystic fibrosis are diagnosed each year; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, nearly fifty percent (50%) of the cystic fibrosis population is  
30 eighteen (18) years of age and older, and people with cystic fibrosis have a  
31 variety of symptoms attributed to the more than one thousand eight hundred  
32 (1,800) mutations of the cystic fibrosis gene; and  
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34 WHEREAS, infant blood screening to detect genetic defects is the most  
35 reliable and least costly method to identify persons likely to have cystic  
36 fibrosis; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of cystic fibrosis permits early treatment and  
3 enhances quality of life and longevity, and the treatment of cystic fibrosis  
4 depends on the stage of the disease and the organs involved; and  
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6 WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the daily  
7 cystic fibrosis treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include  
8 inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and  
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10 WHEREAS, there are two (2) world-class treatment centers in this state  
11 that specialize in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis and the care of persons  
12 with cystic fibrosis; and  
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14 WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with cystic fibrosis  
15 includes access to innovative treatments which can play a crucial role in the  
16 lives of patients with cystic fibrosis; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with cystic  
19 fibrosis starts with awareness,  
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21 NOW THEREFORE

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council designate the month of May 2016  
26 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Arkansas  
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28 Respectfully submitted,  
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32 Senator Jim Hendren  
33 District 2  
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35

36 By: ANS/JLC