

By: Senator Irvin

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS
MONTH.

Subtitle

TO DESIGNATE MAY 2021 AS CYSTIC FIBROSIS
AWARENESS MONTH.

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 eighty (280) of whom live in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, individuals with CF have 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 from reaching the intestines to help break down and absorb food; and

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

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



WHEREAS, fifty-six percent (56%) of the CF population is eighteen (18) years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than one thousand seven hundred (1,700) mutations of the CF 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, along with treatments including inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

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

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF is access to innovative treatments, which 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 BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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