

1 SJR94
2 185535-1
3 By Senator Beasley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 25-APR-17

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8 RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY 2017 AS "CYSTIC
9 FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as
12 "CF," is a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000
13 children and adults in the United States and nearly 70,000
14 children and adults worldwide, over 400 of whom live in
15 Alabama; and

16 WHEREAS, a defective gene causes the body to produce
17 an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and
18 these secretions produce life-threatening lung infections and
19 obstruct the pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes from
20 reaching the intestines to help break down and absorb food;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, more than 10 million Americans are
23 symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene, and CF occurs
24 in approximately one of every 3,500 live births in the United
25 States; and

26 WHEREAS, the median age of survival for a person
27 with CF is 41 years; and

1 WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of CF, the
2 number of adults living with CF has steadily grown, and
3 approximately 900 new cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

4 WHEREAS, fifty-one percent of the CF population is
5 18 years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety
6 of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations of the
7 CF gene; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, clearing the mucus from the lungs is an
16 important part of the daily CF treatment regimen; other types
17 of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic
18 enzymes, among others; and

19 WHEREAS, there are two world-class treatment centers
20 in Alabama which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the
21 care of persons with CF; and

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

25 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life
26 for people with CF starts with awareness; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the month of May 2017 is
3 hereby recognized as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in
4 Alabama.