**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE MAY 2017 AS “CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as CF, is a genetic disease affecting approximately thirty thousand children and adults in the United States and nearly seventy thousand children and adults worldwide, over four hundred of whom live in South Carolina; and

Whereas, a defective gene 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 Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective cystic fibrosis gene, and cystic fibrosis occurs in approximately one of every three thousand five hundred live births in the United States; and

Whereas, the median age of survival for a person with cystic fibrosis is forty-one years; and

Whereas, with advances in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, the number of adults with cystic fibrosis has steadily grown, and approximately nine hundred new cases of cystic fibrosis are diagnosed each year; and

Whereas, fifty-one percent of the cystic fibrosis population is eighteen years of age and older, and people with cystic fibrosis have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than one thousand eight hundred mutations of the cystic fibrosis gene; and

Whereas, infant blood screening to detect genetic defects is the most reliable and least costly method to identify persons likely to have cystic fibrosis; and

Whereas, early diagnosis of cystic fibrosis permits early treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity, and the treatment of cystic fibrosis 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 cystic fibrosis treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

Whereas, there are four world-class treatment centers in South Carolina that specialize in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis and the care of persons with cystic fibrosis; and

Whereas, a critical component of treating patients with cystic fibrosis includes access to innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with cystic fibrosis; and

Whereas, improving the length and quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis starts with awareness. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize May 2017 as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month” in South Carolina.

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