

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To designate the month of May 2017 as Cystic Fibrosis Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Cystic Fibrosis, known as CF, affects cells that produce mucus, perspiration, and digestive juices in the human body; and

WHEREAS, these normally thin, slippery fluids are rendered thick and sticky, and, rather than acting as lubricants, the affected cells plug tubes, ducts, and passageways, especially in the lungs and pancreas; and

WHEREAS, CF impacts roughly seventy thousand people around the world and thirty thousand of those adults and children live in the United States; and

WHEREAS, advances in treatment and improvements leading to earlier detection of this disease have led to people living longer with CF, thereby increasing the population suffering from this debilitating condition; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world, more than half of those living with CF are children, and one thousand new cases of this disabling condition are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, CF is a genetic defect and in order for a child to have CF, both parents must carry the defective gene, which is recessive, and pass these flawed genes on to the child in order for the disease to manifest in the child; and

WHEREAS, the progressive damage caused by CF to the respiratory system and chronic digestive system problems are among the most common manifestations of CF; and

WHEREAS, respiratory damage is caused by mucus build-up in the lungs, and bacterial infections, leading, eventually, to permanent lung damage, including the formation of scar tissue or fibrosis, which impedes the ability of the lungs to inflate and deflate; and

WHEREAS, CF affects a specific protein called cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator that controls the normal movement of sodium chloride, as well as water, in and out of cells throughout the body; and

WHEREAS, the effect of CF on the pancreas causes the ducts to become blocked, causing cystic fibrosis-related diabetes; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all those affected with CF today are over eighteen years of age; 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 the life expectancy as well as improving the quality of life of those living with CF; and

WHEREAS, the average life expectancy of those with CF has been steadily increasing since the 1950s and is currently nearly forty years; and

WHEREAS, the critical component of treating patients with CF includes access to innovative treatments which can affect both longevity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, improving both length and quality of life for people with CF begins with both earlier diagnosis and greater awareness of the disease and its consequences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the month of May 2017 as Cystic Fibrosis Month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE