

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 551

By Sexton C

A RESOLUTION to commemorate May 2016 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as “CF,” is a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, more than 650 of whom live in Tennessee; 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 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately one of every 3,500 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the median age of survival for a person with CF is 39.3 years; and

WHEREAS, with advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults with CF has steadily grown, and approximately 1,000 new cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, nearly fifty percent of the CF population is eighteen years of age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 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, as 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, and other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

WHEREAS, there are seven world-class treatment centers in Tennessee that specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with CF includes 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the many special organizations and healthcare professionals and facilities across Tennessee as they commemorate the month of May 2016 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.