

HOUSE RESOLUTION 336

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to commemorate June 2020 as "65 Roses Month for Cystic Fibrosis Awareness."

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 730 of whom live in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs; 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, "65 Roses" is how many of those children are taught to say "cystic fibrosis," a much prettier and easier way to talk about such a complicated and ugly disease; and

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

WHEREAS, the median predicted age of survival for a person with CF, born between 2013 and 2017, is 44 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, fifty-four percent of the CF population is eighteen years of age and older; individuals with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations of the CF gene; and

WHEREAS, an 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; 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; 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 is access to innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with CF; and

WHEREAS, recent drug approvals are dramatically improving the length and quality of life for people with CF; and

WHEREAS, awareness of CF is the first step, and June is traditionally known as the month of the rose; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the many special organizations and healthcare professionals and facilities across Tennessee as they commemorate the month of June 2020 as "65 Roses Month for Cystic Fibrosis Awareness."

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