

By Senator Flores

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2017 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that affects more than 1,400 children and adults in Florida, more than 30,000 children and adults in the United States, and nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, and

WHEREAS, cystic fibrosis is triggered by a defective gene that 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 cystic fibrosis gene, and the disease 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 cystic fibrosis is 41 years, and

WHEREAS, the number of adults with cystic fibrosis has steadily grown, and approximately 900 new cases of the disease are diagnosed each year, and

WHEREAS, 51 percent of persons with cystic fibrosis are 18 years of age and older, and people with cystic fibrosis have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 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

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30 likely to have the disease, and

31 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of cystic fibrosis permits early
32 treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity, and

33 WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part
34 of the daily cystic fibrosis treatment regimen, and other types
35 of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic
36 enzymes, and

37 WHEREAS, there are 20 world-class treatment centers in
38 Florida that specialize in the diagnosis and care of persons
39 with cystic fibrosis, and

40 WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with
41 cystic fibrosis includes access to innovative treatments that
42 can play a crucial role in their lives, and

43 WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for
44 people with cystic fibrosis starts with awareness, NOW,
45 THEREFORE,

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47 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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49 That May 2017 is recognized as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
50 Month" in Florida.