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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 334 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY DUNBAR, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BROOKS, BROWN, BURNS, DiGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, HAHN, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, NEILSON, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, REESE, RYAN, SAMUELSON, SCHMITT, SONNEY, STAATS, WARREN AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 13, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 13, 2019

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of May 2019 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and approximately 70,000 children and adults worldwide, 1,502 of whom live in this Commonwealth; 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

WHEREAS, CF occurs in approximately 1 out of every 3,500 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1,000 new cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, The median age of survival for an individual with CF is increasing; and

WHEREAS, With advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults with CF has steadily grown; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 50% of the CF population is 18 years of age or older, and individuals 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 individuals likely to have CF; and

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity, and 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 12 world-class treatment centers in this Commonwealth that specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of individuals with CF; and

WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for individuals with CF starts with awareness; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of May 2019 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.