

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Relating to the designation of certain awareness months.

1 Whereas, cystic fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF", is a
2 genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and
3 adults in the United States and nearly 70,000 children and adults
4 worldwide, 717 of whom live in Missouri; and

5 Whereas, a defective gene causes the body to produce an
6 abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, and these
7 secretions produce life-threatening lung infections and obstruct
8 the pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes from reaching the
9 intestines to help break down and absorb food; and

10 Whereas, more than 10 million Americans are symptomless
11 carriers of the defective CF gene, and CF occurs in approximately
12 one of every 3,500 live births in the United States; and

13 Whereas, the median age of survival for a person with CF is
14 39.3 years; and

15 Whereas, with advances in the treatment of CF, the number of
16 adults with CF has steadily grown, and approximately 900 new
17 cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

18 Whereas, fifty percent of the CF population is 18 years of
19 age and older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms
20 attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations of the CF gene; and

1 Whereas, infant blood screening to detect genetic defects is
2 the most reliable and least costly method to identify persons
3 likely to have CF; and

4 Whereas, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and
5 enhances quality of life and longevity and the treatment of CF
6 depends on the stage of the disease and the organs involved; and

7 Whereas, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part
8 of the daily CF treatment regimen, and other types of treatments
9 include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others;
10 and

11 Whereas, there are 8 world-class treatment centers in
12 Missouri which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of
13 persons with CF; and

14 Whereas, a critical component of treating patients with CF
15 includes access to innovative treatments, which can play a
16 crucial role in the lives of patients with CF; and

17 Whereas, improving the length and quality of life for people
18 with CF starts with awareness; and

19 Whereas, the brachial plexus is a network of nerves that
20 conducts signals from the spine to the shoulder, arm, and hand;
21 and

22 Whereas, injury to these nerves can result in lack of muscle
23 control or feeling in the arm or hand, including Erb's palsy:

24 Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the House
25 of Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second
26 Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby designate
27 the month of May of each year as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
28 Month" and the month of October of each year as "Brachial Plexus

1 Awareness Month in Missouri.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri
3 House of Representatives be instructed to send a properly
4 inscribed copy of this resolution to the Governor for his
5 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.