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SENATE RESOLUTION

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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, 1,035 of whom live in Illinois; and

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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

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WHEREAS, More than 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective cystic fibrosis gene; cystic fibrosis occurs in approximately one of every 3,500 live births in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, The median age of survival for a person with cystic fibrosis is 41.1 years; and

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

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1 WHEREAS, Nearly 50% of the cystic fibrosis population is 18
2 years of age and older; people with cystic fibrosis have a
3 variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations
4 of the cystic fibrosis gene; and

5 WHEREAS, Infant blood screening to detect genetic defects
6 is the most reliable and least costly method to identify
7 persons likely to have cystic fibrosis; and

8 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis of cystic fibrosis permits early
9 treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity; the
10 treatment of cystic fibrosis depends on the stage of the
11 disease and the organs involved; and

12 WHEREAS, Clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part
13 of the daily cystic fibrosis treatment regimen; other types of
14 treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes,
15 among others; and

16 WHEREAS, There are 15 world-class treatment centers in
17 Illinois that specialize in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis
18 and the care of persons with cystic fibrosis; and

19 WHEREAS, A critical component of treating patients with
20 cystic fibrosis includes access to innovative treatments,
21 which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with

1 cystic fibrosis; and

2 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for
3 people with cystic fibrosis starts with awareness; therefore,
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
7 of May of 2018 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in the State
8 of Illinois.