

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 863 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, MAY 3, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 3, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2016 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease affecting
4 approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States
5 and nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, 1,659 of whom
6 live in this Commonwealth; and

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

12 WHEREAS, More than 10 million Americans are symptomless
13 carriers of the defective CF gene, and CF occurs in
14 approximately one out of every 3,500 live births in the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, The median age of survival for a person with CF is
17 41.1 years; and

18 WHEREAS, With advances in the treatment of CF, the number of

1 adults with CF has steadily grown, and approximately 1,000 new
2 cases of CF are diagnosed each year; and

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, There are 11 world-class treatment centers in this
17 Commonwealth which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the
18 care of persons with CF; and

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of May 2016 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania.