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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 622 Session of 2008

INTRODUCED BY HESS, PHILLIPS, GEIST, STERN, FLECK, ARGALL, BAKER, BARRAR, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DALLY, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, KENNEY, KILLION, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, McILHATTAN, MELIO, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MUSTIO, NAILOR, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PICKETT, PYLE, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUE, TURZAI, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WATSON, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND D. O'BRIEN, MARCH 6, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 6, 2008

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of May 2008 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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; and

WHEREAS, A defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs; and

WHEREAS, 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 unknowing, symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene; and

WHEREAS, CF occurs in approximately one of every 3,900 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The median age of survival for a person with CF is less than 35 years; and

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

WHEREAS, Nearly 40% of the CF population is 18 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, People with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,000 mutations of the CF gene; and

WHEREAS, These varied symptoms are associated with a high rate of delay in diagnosis and treatment; and

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

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances quality of life and longevity; and

WHEREAS, 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 tobramycin solution for inhalation and azithromycin; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of May 2008 as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.