
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 84 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, LONGIETTI, ISAACSON, HILL-
EVANS, MADDEN, HOWARD, DELLOSO, WARREN, SCHWEYER AND O'MARA,
MARCH 26, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 26, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Health to add cystic fibrosis to Phase
2 1A for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

3 WHEREAS, Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease that
4 causes persistent lung infections and limits an individual's
5 ability to breathe over time; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with CF experience mutations in the
7 cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene,
8 which causes the CFTR protein to become dysfunctional; and

9 WHEREAS, When the CFTR protein is dysfunctional, it causes
10 mucus in various organs to become thick and sticky, which clogs
11 airways and traps germs like bacteria, leading to infections,
12 inflammation and respiratory failure; and

13 WHEREAS, For this reason, minimizing contact with germs is a
14 top concern for individuals with CF, which impacts approximately
15 35,000 individuals in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals with CF can have a variety of symptoms,
17 including salty-tasting skin, persistent coughing, frequent lung

1 infections, including pneumonia or bronchitis, wheezing, poor
2 growth and difficult bowel movements; and

3 WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious
4 disease caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals 60 years of age and over and individuals
6 with underlying medical problems, such as high blood pressure,
7 heart and lung problems, diabetes, obesity or cancer, are at
8 higher risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19; and

9 WHEREAS, Some individuals with CF are immunocompromised
10 because they have had lung transplants or other solid organ
11 transplants and are at an increased risk for severe illness from
12 COVID-19; and

13 WHEREAS, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation engages with Federal
14 and State decision makers about the dangers of respiratory
15 infections for individuals with CF and the needs of the CF
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation calls for those with
18 CF to be considered high priority in Federal and State
19 vaccination distribution plans, given that CF patients have an
20 increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19 infection; and

21 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
22 include CF on the list of conditions that may cause increased
23 risk for severe illness if infected with COVID-19; therefore be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
26 Department of Health to add cystic fibrosis to Phase 1A for
27 COVID-19 vaccine distribution.