

House Concurrent Resolution No. 73

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RHOADS.

5833H.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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25 **WHEREAS**, early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances quality of life
26 and longevity and the treatment of CF depends on the stage of the disease and the organs
27 involved; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the daily CF
30 treatment regimen, and other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic
31 enzymes, among others; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, there are 8 world-class treatment centers in Missouri which specialize in
34 the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, a critical component of treating patients with CF includes access to
37 innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with CF; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF starts with
40 awareness:

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42 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
43 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
44 concurring therein, hereby designate the month of May 2016, as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
45 Month” in Missouri.

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