

2015 -- H 6214

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY 2015 AS, "CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Hearn, Marcello, Serpa, and Fellela

Date Introduced: May 19, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Cystic Fibrosis, commonly referred to as "CF", is a genetic disease affecting
2 approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and nearly 70,000 children and
3 adults worldwide, 99 of whom live in this state; and

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, With advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults with this disease
12 has steadily grown and approximately 1,000 new cases of this disease are diagnosed each year;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 50 percent of the CF population is 18 years of age and older and
15 have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations of the CF gene; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The treatment of CF depends on the stage of the disease and the organs
19 involved. Early diagnosis of CF permits early treatment and enhances quality of life and

1 longevity; and

2 WHEREAS, Clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the daily CF
3 treatment regimen. Additional types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic
4 enzymes, among others; and

5 WHEREAS, In this state, the Brown University Medical School/Rhode Island Hospital
6 Cystic Fibrosis Center is a world-class treatment center which specializes in the diagnosis and
7 care of persons with CF; and

8 WHEREAS, A critical component in treating patients with CF includes access to
9 innovative medicines, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with CF; and

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

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby designates the Month of May 2015, as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness
14 Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Pamela Spitzer, Massachusetts/Rhode Island
17 Executive Director, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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