

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Cystic Fibrosis, commonly referred to as “CF,” is a genetic disease affecting over 35,000 children and adults in the United States and over 100,000 individuals worldwide; and

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

WHEREAS: The median predicted age of survival for a person with CF is less than 50 years; and

WHEREAS: With advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults with the disease has steadily grown, and approximately 1,000 new cases are diagnosed every year; and

WHEREAS: Over 50 percent of the CF population is 18 years of age or older, and people with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 2,000 variants in the CFTR gene; 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 the treatment 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 inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

WHEREAS: There are two world-class treatment centers in Arkansas which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

WHEREAS: A critical component of treating patients with CF includes access to innovative treatment which can play a crucial role in the lives of people with CF; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 2022, as


CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

across the state, and I encourage my fellow citizens to educate themselves on the symptoms of CF and learn of the possible treatment options.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


John Thurston, Secretary of State