



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

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, more than 400 of whom live in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, producing life-threatening lung infections and obstructing the pancreas thereby 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. CF occurs in approximately one of every 3,500 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the median predicted age of survival for a person with CF, born in 2016, is 47.7 years; and

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

WHEREAS, 53% of the CF population is 18 years of age and older. Those with CF have a variety of symptoms attributed to the more than 1,800 mutations of the CF 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. 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. Other types of treatments include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes, among others; and

WHEREAS, there are 2 world-class treatment centers in Alabama which specialize in the diagnosis of CF and the care of persons with CF; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of treating patients with Cystic fibrosis includes access to innovative treatments, which can play a crucial role in the lives of patients with Cystic fibrosis. The length and quality of life for people with CF starts with awareness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 2018, as

Cystic fibrosis Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the
City of Montgomery on the 20th day of April 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor