



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Cystic Fibrosis (commonly referred to as CF) is a genetic disease affecting nearly 70,000 children and adults worldwide, including approximately 30,000 in the United States—905 of whom live in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS in CF, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus which clogs the lungs (resulting in life-threatening lung infections), and obstructs 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; as a result, CF occurs in approximately one in every 3,500 live births in the United States, and 900 new cases are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, along with advances in the treatment of CF, the number of adults with CF has steadily grown; today, 50 percent of the CF population is aged 18 years or older, and the median age of survival for a person with CF has increased above 40 years; and

WHEREAS, infant blood screening is the most reliable and least costly method to detect a genetic defect and thereby identify persons likely to have CF; the age of diagnosis is vital as it permits opportunity for early treatments that can enhance quality of life and increase longevity; and

WHEREAS, clearing mucus from the lungs is an important part of the daily CF treatment regimen, while other methods include inhaled antibiotics and pancreatic enzymes; however, people with CF have a variety of symptoms due to the more than 1,800 mutations of the CF gene, so treatment depends on the stage of the disease and organs involved; and

WHEREAS, there are eight world-class treatment centers in North Carolina which specialize in the diagnosis and care of persons with CF, helping provide access to the innovative treatments that play such a crucial role in their lives—this accessibility to resources is a critical component to CF patients' survival, and

WHEREAS, improving the length and quality of life for people with CF starts with awareness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2017, as "CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.