



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst  
Texas Senate  
PO Box 12068 - Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Senator Kolkhorst:

On behalf of the more than 2,000 Texans living with cystic fibrosis (CF), we write to support the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) recent Legislative Appropriations Request to preserve full funding of \$61,001,633 for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) in the FY 2022-2023 budget. We urge you to include this request as you form the upcoming budget.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects 30,000 children and adults in the United States. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections.

The CSHCN program is critical to ensuring that Texans with special health care needs, including people with CF, have access to the high-quality, specialized care and treatments required to manage their diseases. For eligible patients, including those with CF, CSHCN is a crucial source of coverage—often filling important gaps left by other plans or covering those without another source of insurance. Programs that support people with chronic conditions, including those with CF and others who may be at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19, are more important than ever during the ongoing public health and economic crises caused by the pandemic.

We recognize that the state is facing serious budget constraints due to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis; however, preserving funding for CSHCN is more important than ever. We thank HHS for recognizing the importance of the CSHCN program in their LAR and urge the legislature to follow the recommendation to ensure CSHCN receives full funding in the upcoming 2022-2023 Texas state budget.

We stand ready to serve as a resource as you address the current public health emergency and develop a final budget. If you have any questions about CF or would like to discuss CSHCN further, please contact **Sarah Webster-Mellon, State Policy Manager, at [swebster-mellon@cff.org](mailto:swebster-mellon@cff.org) or (240) 200-3712.**

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Dwight".

**Mary B. Dwight**  
Senior VP of Policy & Advocacy  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation