

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 463 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BRIGGS, BROOKS, BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CIRESI, COOK, COX, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAY, DEASY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, ECKER, EMRICK, EVERETT, FITZGERALD, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, FRITZ, GILLESPIE, GOODMAN, GREINER, HAHN, HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD, JAMES, JONES, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KIM, KINSEY, KLUNK, KORTZ, KOSIEROWSKI, KULIK, LAWRENCE, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MATZIE, McCLINTON, McNEILL, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MIZGORSKI, MOUL, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEAL, OBERLANDER, OWLETT, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, POLINCHOCK, PYLE, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROTHMAN, ROZZI, RYAN, SAYLOR, SCHEMEL, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT, SHUSTERMAN, SONNEY, STAATS, STEPHENS, THOMAS, TOEPEL, ULLMAN, WENTLING, WHEELAND, ZIMMERMAN, DRISCOLL, O'MARA, BOROWICZ, RAPP AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2019 as "Childhood Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Childhood cancers make up less than 1% of all  
4 cancers diagnosed each year and childhood cancer rates have been  
5 rising slightly for the past few decades; and

6 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of  
7 death in children under 15 years of age, exceeded only by  
8 accidents, and more than 1,100 children are expected to die from  
9 cancer in 2019; and

10 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that more than  
11 11,000 children in the United States under 15 years of age will

1 be diagnosed with cancer in 2019; and

2 WHEREAS, The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer  
3 and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all  
4 other cancers with the exception of breast cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, Most children cannot be treated at a local hospital,  
6 and families must face the disruption of relocating to receive  
7 treatment at a regional cancer center; and

8 WHEREAS, As a result of major treatment advances in recent  
9 decades, more than 80% of children with cancer now survive five  
10 years or more; and

11 WHEREAS, This is a huge increase since the mid-1970s, when  
12 the five-year survival rate was approximately 58%; and

13 WHEREAS, Survival rates vary depending on the type of cancer  
14 and other factors; and

15 WHEREAS, There is still significant progress that must be  
16 made with regard to childhood cancer treatment because there are  
17 many types of childhood cancer and some types with lower  
18 survival rates are very difficult to treat; and

19 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in the fight against and  
20 treatment of childhood cancer with six Children's Oncology Group  
21 hospitals, including St. Christopher's Hospital for Children,  
22 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger Medical Center,  
23 Lehigh Valley Children's Hospital, Penn State Health Children's  
24 Hospital and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

25 WHEREAS, Two of only twelve institutions in the Pediatric  
26 Brain Tumor Consortium are in Pennsylvania, including Children's  
27 Hospital of Philadelphia and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Penn State Health Children's Hospital in Hershey is  
30 one of only ten institutions nationwide in the Pediatric

1 Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigators' Consortium;  
2 therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
4 month of September 2019 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in  
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage young  
7 Pennsylvanians who are fighting cancer, honor young people who  
8 have lost their lives to childhood cancer, express gratitude to  
9 the doctors and nurses who provide special care to patients and  
10 families affected by childhood cancer and encourage all  
11 residents in this Commonwealth to join the fight against  
12 childhood cancer.