

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 371 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BAKER, BARRAR, BRIGGS, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CONKLIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, CUTLER, P. DALEY, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUNBAR, DUSH, EMRICK, EVERETT, FARINA, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GREINER, GROVE, HARHAI, HARHART, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KIM, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KLUNK, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MATZIE, McNEILL, MENTZER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, NEUMAN, O'NEILL, ORTITAY, D. PARKER, PAYNE, PICKETT, RADER, RAPP, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROSS, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SCHREIBER, SONNEY, THOMAS, TOEPEL, TOOHL, WATSON, WHEELAND, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD, ZIMMERMAN, WARD AND BRADFORD, JUNE 5, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 5, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2015 as "Childhood Cancer
 2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, honoring those young people
 3 who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, expressing
 4 gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care
 5 to patients and families affected by childhood cancer, and
 6 encouraging all residents to join the fight against childhood
 7 cancer in this Commonwealth.

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

11 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of
 12 death in children under the age of 15, exceeded only by
 13 accidents, and about 1,250 children are expected to die of
 14 cancer in 2015; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that about
2 10,380 children in the United States under the age of 15 will be
3 diagnosed with cancer in 2015; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Because of major treatment advances in recent
11 decades, more than 80% of children with cancer now survive 5
12 years or more; and

13 WHEREAS, This is a huge increase since the mid-1970s, when
14 the 5-year survival rate was less than 60%; and

15 WHEREAS, Survival rates vary depending on the type of cancer
16 and other factors; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in the fight against and
22 treatment of childhood cancer with six Children's Oncology Group
23 hospitals, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, The
24 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger Medical Center,
25 Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenburg, Hershey Medical Center and
26 Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

27 WHEREAS, Two of only ten institutions in the Pediatric Brain
28 Tumor Consortium are in Pennsylvania, The Children's Hospital of
29 Philadelphia and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Penn
30 State Hershey Children's Hospital is one of only 11 institutions

1 nationwide in the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutic
2 Consortium; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
4 month of September 2015 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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