
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 379 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, BROWNE, AUMENT, MENSCH, K. WARD, ARNOLD,
LANGERHOLC, DiSANTO, PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, KILLION,
BAKER, STEFANO, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON, ARGALL, PITTMAN, YAW,
SCAVELLO, BROOKS, COSTA, BOSCOLA, SCHWANK, FONTANA, IOVINO
AND DINNIMAN, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2020 as "Childhood Cancer
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, encouraging young
3 Pennsylvanians who are fighting cancer, honoring young people
4 who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, expressing
5 gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care
6 to patients and families affected by childhood cancer and
7 encouraging all residents in this Commonwealth to join the
8 fight against childhood cancer.

9 WHEREAS, Since 1975, childhood cancer rates have risen by
10 0.7%; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that
12 approximately 11,050 children in the United States under 15
13 years of age will be diagnosed with cancer in 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of
15 death in children under 15 years of age, exceeded only by
16 accidents, and approximately 1,190 children are expected to die
17 from cancer in 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer
19 and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all

1 other cancers with the exception of breast cancer; and

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

5 WHEREAS, As a result of major treatment advances in recent
6 decades, more than 84% of children with cancer now survive five
7 years or more; and

8 WHEREAS, This is a significant increase since the mid-1970s,
9 when the five-year survival rate was less than 60%; and

10 WHEREAS, Survival rates vary depending on the type of cancer
11 and other factors; and

12 WHEREAS, There is still significant progress to be made with
13 regard to childhood cancer treatment because many types of
14 childhood cancer, and some types with lower survival rates, are
15 very difficult to treat; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in the fight against and
17 treatment of childhood cancer, with six Children's Oncology
18 Group hospitals: St. Christopher's Hospital for Children,
19 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger Medical Center,
20 Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, Penn State Health Children's
21 Hospital and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

22 WHEREAS, Penn State Health Children's Hospital is one of only
23 10 institutions nationwide in the Pediatric Oncology
24 Experimental Therapeutic Investigators' Consortium; and

25 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation reported that from
26 August 2019 through August 2020 Pennsylvanians contributed more
27 than \$1,051,840 to the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund through
28 its newly established donation feature made available during
29 online license, identification card and registration renewals;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September
2 2020 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
3 be it further

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