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House Resolution

A resolution designating September 2024 as "Childhood and Adolescent Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, childhood and adolescent cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children and adolescents in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 2023, approximately 15,000 children and adolescents in the United States were diagnosed with cancer, and an estimated 1,500 died of the disease, and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2020, there were approximately 495,739 survivors of childhood and adolescent cancer in the United States, and

WHEREAS, each year, hundreds of children and adolescents in the state battle against cancer, many of whom will experience late-term effects from treatment, including secondary cancers, which also impacts their parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and communities, and

WHEREAS, many childhood and adolescent cancer patients experience late-term effects from chemotherapy or radiation treatment, which may persist or develop for years after the cancer diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, there are many healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocates in the state who work tirelessly to

HR 8019

2024

25 | improve existing treatments and find cures for childhood and  
26 | adolescent cancer, and

27 |       WHEREAS, the state is home to several nationally acclaimed  
28 | treatment centers and research institutions dedicated to  
29 | pediatric cancer, all of which have contributed significantly to  
30 | clinical trials and therapies, and

31 |       WHEREAS, as a result of improved treatment options, the  
32 | relative survival rate of at least 5 years after diagnosis is  
33 | greater than 80 percent, with survival rates varying based on  
34 | the type of cancer and the age of the patient, and

35 |       WHEREAS, every child deserves to grow and thrive in a  
36 | healthy and nurturing environment, and

37 |       WHEREAS, raising awareness of childhood and adolescent  
38 | cancer can inspire compassion, support, and action to improve  
39 | the lives of children and adolescents in the state, and

40 |       WHEREAS, raising awareness of childhood and adolescent  
41 | cancer can educate individuals about the unique challenges faced  
42 | by children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer and their  
43 | families, including the side effects of treatment, the financial  
44 | burden, and the psychological trauma, and

45 |       WHEREAS, the federal government recognizes September as  
46 | National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month which underscores the  
47 | importance of this issue and the collective national effort  
48 | required to address and combat the impacts of childhood and  
49 | adolescent cancer, and, NOW, THEREFORE,

HR 8019

2024

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51 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
52 Florida:

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54       That September 2024 is designated as "Childhood and  
55 Adolescent Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida to raise awareness  
56 of childhood and adolescent cancer and to honor children and  
57 adolescents diagnosed with cancer and acknowledge the challenges  
58 they and their families face.