

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1043

By: Nelson and Thomsen

6
7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution expressing certain belief; encouraging
10 partnerships that improve effectiveness of treatments
11 for childhood cancer and reduce negative effects of
12 such treatment; and directing distribution.

13
14 WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in
15 children in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, approximately one in 285 children in the United States
17 will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday; and

18 WHEREAS, the incidence of childhood cancer is on the increase,
19 averaging 0.6 percent increase per year since the mid 1970s, an
20 overall increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years; and

21 WHEREAS, childhood cancer occurs regularly, randomly and spares
22 no ethnic group, socioeconomic class or geographic region; and

1 WHEREAS, the causes of most childhood cancers are unknown and
2 are not strongly linked to lifestyle or environmental risk factors
3 and therefore cannot be prevented; and

4 WHEREAS, there are 16 major types of pediatric cancer and more
5 than 100 subtypes; and

6 WHEREAS, through research great advances have been made in
7 treating childhood cancer, increasing the overall survival rate of
8 children with cancer to nearly 80 percent, but some childhood
9 cancers still have a high mortality rate such as advanced stage
10 neuroblastoma, metastatic sarcomas and certain brain tumors; and

11 WHEREAS, survival rates can range from almost zero percent for
12 cancers such as DIPG, a type of brain cancer, to as high as 90
13 percent for the most common type of childhood cancer known as Acute
14 Lymphoma Leukemia (ALL); and

15 WHEREAS, the most common causes of death in childhood cancer
16 survivors are the return of the primary cancer, a different primary
17 cancer and damage to the heart and lungs; and

18 WHEREAS, more than 95 percent of childhood cancer survivors will
19 have long-lasting chronic conditions from treatment, and will have a
20 significant health-related issue by the time they are 45 years of
21 age from side-effects of either the cancer or, more commonly, the
22 result of the currently employed treatments which are toxic and
23 harsh; and

24

1 WHEREAS, the late effects of childhood cancer include
2 infertility, heart failure, breast cancer, secondary cancers and
3 other negative health consequences; and

4 WHEREAS, "Curing childhood cancer is the equivalent of curing
5 breast cancer in terms of productive life years saved", according to
6 Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman at MD Anderson Cancer Center; and

7 WHEREAS, the average age at diagnosis of cancer in adults is 67
8 years with 17 years of life lost on average to cancer, whereas the
9 average age at diagnosis of cancer in children is 6 years with 71
10 years of life lost on average to cancer; and

11 WHEREAS, the FDA has approved only three drugs for pediatric
12 cancer in the past 30 years; and

13 WHEREAS, for many of the childhood cancers the same treatments
14 that existed in the 1970s continue without change; and

15 WHEREAS, on average, pediatric hospitalizations for cancer cost
16 almost five times as much as hospitalizations for other pediatric
17 conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2014 it was estimated that childhood cancer research
19 received only four percent or \$195 million of the National Cancer
20 Institute budget of \$4.9 billion; and

21 WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of all funding for cancer drug
22 development comes from pharmaceutical companies which commit
23 virtually no funding or effort to drug development for childhood
24

1 cancer because of the small profits to be made from the small market
2 size; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1999, as part of the tobacco settlement, the State
4 of Texas created a \$200 million permanent endowment dedicated to
5 childhood cancer research at the University of Texas Health Science
6 Center at San Antonio and significant portions of tobacco settlement
7 funds at other Texas medical schools have been devoted to childhood
8 cancer research; and

9 WHEREAS, for each dollar the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement
10 Endowment Trust invests, researchers are able to attract another
11 three dollars in outside support for scientific research.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
13 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

14 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives believes that
15 Oklahoma has an opportunity to benefit children who are battling
16 cancer by establishing research partnerships between public entities
17 like the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and public
18 universities and other medical research organizations.

19 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages such
20 partnerships designed to improve the effectiveness of treatments for
21 childhood cancer and reduce the negative late effects of treatment
22 of childhood cancer so more children will survive cancer and suffer
23 fewer negative late effects from treatment.

24

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives directs that this
2 resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement
3 Endowment Trust, the University of Oklahoma and the Jimmy Everest
4 Center at the Children's Hospital at the University of Oklahoma
5 Medical Center.

6
7 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24