
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 196 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WAGNER, BROOKS, DINNIMAN, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA,
EICHELBERGER, FARNESE, ARGALL, FONTANA, GREENLEAF,
RESCHENTHALER, LANGERHOLC, BREWSTER, SCAVELLO, SABATINA,
AUMENT, RAFFERTY, COSTA, FOLMER, YAW AND HUGHES,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2017 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, Childhood cancers make up less than 1% of all
10 cancers diagnosed each year and childhood cancer rates have been
11 rising slightly for the past few decades; and

12 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of
13 death in children under 15 years of age, exceeded only by
14 accidents, and approximately 1,190 children are expected to die
15 from cancer in 2017; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that
17 approximately 10,270 children in the United States under 15
18 years of age will be diagnosed with cancer in 2017; and

19 WHEREAS, The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer

1 and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all
2 other cancers with the exception of breast cancer; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Two of only 10 institutions in the Pediatric Brain
24 Tumor Consortium are in Pennsylvania: Children's Hospital of
25 Philadelphia and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

26 WHEREAS, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital is one of
27 only 11 institutions nationwide in the Pediatric Oncology
28 Experimental Therapeutic Investigators' Consortium; therefore be
29 it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September

1 2017 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
2 be it further

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