

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 257

Designating July 19, 2023, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 19, 2023, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

Whereas approximately 14,490 new cases of glioblastoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2023;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

(1) the most common malignant (cancerous) brain tumor, accounting for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of all primary malignant brain tumors; and

(2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma each year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 6.9 percent, and the median length of survival for glioblastoma patients is only 8 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the “essence of self”, as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas patients and caregivers play a critical role in furthering research for glioblastoma;

Whereas, relative to other types of cancers, brain cancer patients pay the second highest out-of-pocket costs for medical services in both the initial and end-of-life phases of care;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain, and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, in 2021, the World Health Organization reclassified brain tumors and made significant changes to the molecular characteristics of a glioblastoma diagnosis, necessitating critical biomarker testing for patients suspected of having a possible glioblastoma;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 5 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to specifically treat glioblastoma since the 1920s,

and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas, since the first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, the National Cancer Institute established the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network (referred to in this preamble as “GTN”) in 2020 as part of a national infrastructure to enhance and support the discovery and development of glioblastoma therapies available for multi-institutional GTN teams to drive therapeutic agents through pre-clinical studies and early-phase clinical trials, which are necessary to rapidly evaluate potential treatments to advance toward cures and improved quality of life; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research of, and treatment advances for, glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates July 19, 2023, as “Glioblastoma
3 Awareness Day”;

4 (2) encourages increased public awareness of
5 glioblastoma;

6 (3) honors the individuals who have died from
7 the devastating disease of glioblastoma or are cur-
8 rently living with the disease;

9 (4) supports efforts to develop better treat-
10 ments for glioblastoma that will improve the long-

1 term prognosis for, and the quality of life of, individ-
2 uals diagnosed with the disease;

3 (5) recognizes the importance of molecular bio-
4 marker testing to the diagnosis and treatment of
5 glioblastoma;

6 (6) expresses support for the individuals who
7 are battling brain tumors, as well as the families,
8 friends, and caregivers of those individuals;

9 (7) urges a collaborative approach to brain
10 tumor research among governmental, private, and
11 nonprofit organizations, which is a promising means
12 of advancing the understanding and treatment of
13 glioblastoma; and

14 (8) encourages continued investments in glio-
15 blastoma research and treatments, including through
16 the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network and other
17 existing brain tumor research resources.

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