

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 757

Expressing support for the designation of the month of November 2020  
as “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23 (legislative day, OCTOBER 19), 2020

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BROWN)  
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee  
on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of the month of  
November 2020 as “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month”.

Whereas pancreatic cancer will kill an estimated 47,050 peo-  
ple in the United States in 2020;

Whereas pancreatic cancer is the third leading cause of can-  
cer-related death in the United States;

Whereas, in 2020, pancreatic cancer has killed two United  
States icons—Representative John Lewis and Associate  
Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg;

Whereas an additional 57,600 individuals in the United  
States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2020;

Whereas, of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, 66 per-  
cent will die within the first year of their diagnosis;

Whereas persistent healthcare inequities and disparities for communities of color compound the devastation of pancreatic cancer;

Whereas the incidence rate for pancreatic cancer among Black Americans is 20 percent higher than that of any other racial demographic;

Whereas the pancreatic cancer death rate is 17 percent higher for Black men than for White men;

Whereas the lack of pancreatic cancer early detection research accelerates the racial unfairness in the United States healthcare system, with devastating consequences for minorities;

Whereas pancreatic cancer has no early detection test to diagnose this cancer quickly and accurately determine the presence of this cancer;

Whereas, if diagnosed early, the 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients is above 80 percent;

Whereas, if pancreatic cancer is detected late, the 5-year survival rate drops to less than 10 percent;

Whereas without adequate funding and early detection research, pancreatic cancer is not discovered until the late stages of this horrific cancer when treatment options are limited;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2020, pancreatic cancer received its own dedicated research program at the Department of Defense under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs;

Whereas, in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2020 (division A of Public Law 116–93), Congress appropriated funds to the Congressionally Directed Medical

Research Programs, with \$6,000,000 going to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program; and

Whereas the 116th Congress has a unique opportunity to make a historic investment in pancreatic cancer research at the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) supports the designation of “Pancreatic  
3       Cancer Awareness Month” for the month of Novem-  
4       ber, 2020;

5           (2) recognizes the critical importance of in-  
6       creasing funding for pancreatic cancer research at  
7       the Department of Defense and the National Insti-  
8       tutes of Health to find effective treatments for this  
9       cancer and reduce the disproportionate impact on  
10      communities of color; and

11          (3) supports the efforts of the many advocacy  
12      organizations to educate communities in the United  
13      States about pancreatic cancer and the need for  
14      more research funding, early-detection initiatives, di-  
15      agnostic tests, and effective treatments.

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