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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 485 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BANTA, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, CAUSER,  
CIRESI, CONKLIN, COOK, DELLOSO, EMRICK, FEE, FLICK, FREEMAN,  
GILLEN, HANBIDGE, HOHENSTEIN, M. JONES, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY,  
MARSHALL, McNEILL, METZGAR, MOUL, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, RAPP,  
SCHEUREN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT, VENKAT AND WARREN,  
JUNE 21, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 21, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2024 as "Childhood Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Since 1975, childhood cancer rates have risen by  
4 0.7%; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that  
6 approximately 9,620 children in the United States under 15 years  
7 of age will be diagnosed with cancer in 2024; and

8 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of  
9 death in children under 15 years of age, exceeded only by  
10 accidents and more than 1,000 children are expected to die from  
11 cancer in 2024; and

12 WHEREAS, One in 285 children in the United States will be  
13 diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

14 WHEREAS, The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer  
15 and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all  
16 other cancers with the exception of breast cancer; and

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

4       WHEREAS, As a result of major treatment advances in recent  
5 decades, approximately 85% of children with cancer now survive  
6 five years or more; and

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

9       WHEREAS, Survival rates vary depending on the type of cancer  
10 and other factors; and

11       WHEREAS, There is still significant progress to be made  
12 relating to childhood cancer treatment because many types of  
13 childhood cancer, and some types with lower survival rates, are  
14 very difficult to treat; and

15       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in the fight against and  
16 treatment of childhood cancer, with six Children's Oncology  
17 Group hospitals: St. Christopher's Hospital for Children,  
18 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger Medical Center,  
19 Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, Penn State Health Children's  
20 Hospital and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

21       WHEREAS, Penn State Health Children's Hospital is one of only  
22 11 institutions nationwide in the Pediatric Oncology  
23 Experimental Therapeutic Investigators' Consortium; and

24       WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation reported that from  
25 August 2021 through August 2022, Pennsylvanians contributed  
26 nearly \$800,000 to the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund through  
27 its donation feature made available during online license,  
28 identification card and registration renewals; therefore be it

29       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
30 month of September 2024 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in

1 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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