
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 163 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, COSTA,
HUGHES, FONTANA, HAYWOOD, LANGERHOLC, BROOKS, TARTAGLIONE,
BREWSTER, SANTARSIERO, LAUGHLIN, REGAN, DUSH, CAPPELLETTI,
SCHWANK, HUTCHINSON, PENNYCUICK, BROWN, MASTRIANO AND
ROBINSON, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2023 as "Childhood Cancer
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer rates have been rising slightly
4 over the past few decades; and

5 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of
6 death in children under 15 years of age, exceeded only by car
7 accidents; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society,
9 approximately 1,040 children are expected to die from cancer in
10 2023; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that
12 approximately 9,910 children in the United States under 15 years
13 of age will be diagnosed with cancer in 2023; 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, more than 85% of children with cancer now survive five
6 years or more; and

7 WHEREAS, The survival rate of children with cancer has
8 significantly increased since the mid-1970s, when the five-year
9 survival rate was approximately 58%; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Due to children's bodies still growing and cancer
13 treatments largely geared toward use on adults, children are
14 more likely to experience long-term side effects from treatment;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Possible late effects of cancer treatments include,
17 but are not limited to, heart or lung problems, slowed or
18 delayed development, changes in sexual development and the
19 ability to have children, learning disabilities and increased
20 risk of secondary forms of cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer treatment is handled by a team of
22 pediatric oncologists, pediatric surgeons, radiation
23 oncologists, pediatric oncology nurses, nurse practitioners and
24 physician assistants; and

25 WHEREAS, Other members of the team of health professionals
26 aiding in the health and well-being of childhood cancer patients
27 include, but are not limited to, psychologists, social workers,
28 child life specialists, nutritionists, rehabilitation and
29 physical therapists and educators; and

30 WHEREAS, Some of the most important members of a pediatric

1 cancer patient's team are experienced parents who navigate and
2 advocate on behalf of their children; and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is a leader in the fight against
4 and treatment of childhood cancer with six Children's Oncology
5 Group hospitals: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger
6 Medical Center, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, Penn State
7 Health Children's Hospital, St. Christopher's Hospital for
8 Children and The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)
9 Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

10 WHEREAS, Two of only sixteen institutions in the Pediatric
11 Brain Tumor Consortium are in Pennsylvania: Children's Hospital
12 of Philadelphia and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

13 WHEREAS, Penn State Health Children's Hospital is one of only
14 eleven institutions nationwide participating in the Pediatric
15 Oncology Experimental Therapeutic Investigators' Consortium; and

16 WHEREAS, Act 39 of 2017 allowed for donations to the
17 Pediatric Cancer Research Fund (PCRF) to be used for pediatric
18 cancer research funded by reductions in personal income tax
19 refunds; and

20 WHEREAS, Act 73 of 2018 allowed for an additional funding
21 stream for the PCRF via electronic drivers license, registration
22 and identification card renewals; and

23 WHEREAS, As of August 2023, the PCRF collected \$3,463,417.87;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Between fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the
26 Commonwealth has earmarked approximately \$20 million from the
27 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to be allocated to pediatric
28 cancer research with an additional \$10 million soon to be added
29 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year; and

30 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has invested in telepresence

1 educational equipment that childhood cancer patients utilize to
2 allow for greater remote learning opportunities during long
3 absences and to increase access to needed social supports; and

4 WHEREAS, Students from The Pennsylvania State University
5 (PSU), PSU branch campuses and local high schools of this
6 Commonwealth participate in the largest student-run philanthropy
7 in the world called Dance MaraTHON (THON); and

8 WHEREAS, THON is a year-round fundraising effort on behalf of
9 the Four Diamonds Fund which raises money for pediatric cancer
10 research, treatments and financial support for families battling
11 pediatric cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, Since THON's inception in 1973, the organization has
13 raised approximately \$204 million for the kids; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September
15 2023 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate its progress and the
18 progress of all related organizations in aiding children
19 battling pediatric cancer while simultaneously renewing its
20 commitment to the cause; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage young Pennsylvanians who
22 are fighting cancer, honor young people who have lost their
23 lives to childhood cancer, express gratitude to the doctors,
24 nurses and parents who provide special care to patients and
25 families affected by childhood cancer and encourage all
26 residents in this Commonwealth to join the fight against
27 childhood cancer.