**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 2022 AS “CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN ORDER TO INCREASE RECOGNITION OF AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PREVALENCE OF ITS EXISTENCE AMONG CHILDREN IN THE HOPES OF CREATING MORE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AND BETTER OPTIONS FOR TREATMENT IN THE FUTURE.

Whereas, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and;

Whereas, one in two hundred eighty‑five children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer by his or her twentieth birthday; and

Whereas, forty‑seven children per day or 17,155 children per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S.; and

Whereas, there are approximately forty thousand children on active treatment at any given time; and

Whereas, the average age of diagnosis is eight years old, compared to sixty‑six years for adults’ cancer diagnosis; and

Whereas, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease; and

Whereas, on average there has been a 0.7% increase in incidence per year since the mid‑1970s resulting in an overall incidence increase of 41% over the last forty years; and

Whereas, 95% of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one‑third being classified as severe to life‑threatening. In the process of eradicating cancer, these children risk their long‑term health and physical ability; and

Whereas, approximately one‑half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out‑of‑pocket expenses as considerable to severe; and

Whereas, in the last twenty years, only six new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer; and

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out; and

Whereas, hundreds of nonprofit organizations at the local and national level, including the American Childhood Cancer Organization, are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional, and financial support; and

Whereas, researchers and health care professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer; and

Whereas, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure. The need for new, more efficacious treatments is paramount so that children and their families don’t have to choose between life and health, so that children can live and enjoy their childhood, and so that families don’t have to take on large amounts of debt to help their child. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare September 2022 as “Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” in South Carolina in order to increase recognition of and knowledge about the prevalence of its existence among children in the hopes of creating more research opportunities and better options for treatment in the future.

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