

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR COLOMB

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate September 2019 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, while, statistically speaking, childhood cancer is rare, this "rarity", remains the number one disease killer of children in the United States today, and in low- and middle-income countries, scientists and physicians now believe that while mortality from infectious diseases is declining, mortality from childhood cancer, even forms of cancer now considered "treatable" in the United States, is increasing; and

WHEREAS, far too many Americans know a child currently battling cancer, a childhood cancer survivor, or a family that has lost a loved one to this terrible disease; and

WHEREAS, each year more than fifteen thousand children and young adults are diagnosed with cancer, which is over forty children each day, and twenty percent of those stricken will not survive their bout with cancer; and

WHEREAS, some problems, like childhood cancer, can seem too big or too overwhelming to defeat and find a cure, however, researchers, physicians, and groups of healthcare providers have been working tirelessly every day for decades to find better treatments and cures for children fighting cancer; and

WHEREAS, as with any seemingly intractable problem, curing childhood cancer seems too daunting to engage in finding a cure, but every step forward, every dollar donated, every hour spent tending to children or researching in the laboratory, moves everyone closer to an eventual cure; and

WHEREAS, at one point in the lifetimes of Baby Boomers and others, infantile paralysis (polio) seemed equally intractable; a solution and cure, too much of a dream, not a reality, however, as we stand today, polio has been all but eradicated throughout the world, an unqualified success by any measure; and

WHEREAS, with more dollars for research, the involvement of increased numbers of medical professionals and the focused work of thousands of volunteers, childhood cancers can meet the same fate as polio; it can be eradicated entirely; and

WHEREAS, knowing as many details about childhood cancer as one can acquire is a critical part of fighting this disease; and

WHEREAS, efforts toward a coordinated information-gathering campaign about childhood cancers can facilitate more research, enable better treatment options, and empower families and survivors; and

WHEREAS, a central element of the mission to cure childhood cancer is to ensure that policymakers, researchers, and leaders in the healthcare community in the United States and abroad have all the tools they need to collect data and share as much information on childhood cancer as possible; and

WHEREAS, those parents, healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers must stand as champions of children, driving innovation and quality care to maximize positive outcomes and providing the necessary resources to accomplish these goals; and

WHEREAS, as a support group to bring successful treatments and, eventually, cures to these children dealing with a determined enemy in childhood cancer, adults are called to serve those children with an enthusiastic spirit and be the champions for these children who are unable to advocate for themselves, and to bring about treatments and cures for these children, standing together as champions for these children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate September 2019 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gordon Gibson.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES