

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the untimely death of Emilie Michelle Gibson of Bossier City, Louisiana, and to remember her contributions to others.

WHEREAS, Emilie Gibson was an energetic, vivacious ten-year-old filled with an exuberance for life that was infectious; her attitude affected every acquaintance in a delightfully playful manner; and

WHEREAS, along with her impish grin, Emilie had an immense engaging spirit; she was curious and outgoing; she was affectionate to a fault; and she was a fierce competitor; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Legacy Elementary School, Emilie always put forth her very best effort in class and participated in extracurricular activities like *Destination Imagination*, a state scholastic competition; and

WHEREAS, Emilie had an immense love of family; her parents, Trey and Candice, her older brother, Alex, her grandparents, extended family members, her many friends, and her beloved dog, Max; and

WHEREAS, she also loved swimming, dancing, watching Harry Potter movies, and wearing "crazy" hats shaped like animals, the sillier the hat, the better she liked it; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Emilie was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), a rare and highly aggressive pediatric brain cancer, a malignancy that develops in the brain stem and affects the entire nervous system; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate for DIPG is less than one percent over five years and the median survival time is nine months from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, with extraordinary strength of will, Emilie survived fourteen months post diagnosis; her medical regime included palliative treatment with radiation at Willis-Knighton Cancer Center in Shreveport, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, and other speciality treatment centers; and

WHEREAS, Emilie faced every day as a fresh experience; it was something precious

to be savored and never squandered; she embraced each day as a new opportunity to fight her cancer and she developed a mantra to keep her spirits buoyant, "Just Keep Swimming"; and

WHEREAS, Emilie Gibson was not defined by her cancer, she defied it with every fiber of her being and she lived her life to its fullest extent; she shall be remembered for her fortitude, her courage, her humor, and her sassy familiar demeanor; and

WHEREAS, Emilie touched numerous individuals during her ten years of life; she inspired others to organize fundraising events to benefit DIPG, and she received copious cards and letters of encouragement from strangers around the world; and

WHEREAS, May is National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; in recognition of those affected by DIPG, proposed legislation would designate the seventeenth of May each year hence as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in memorial, Friends of Emilie Gibson and other organizations continue to raise awareness and garner support for DIPG research; and

WHEREAS, Emilie fought the good fight and continues to help others affected by this disease; it was her parents' wish that an anatomical donation of her glial tissue be made for continued medical research to discover a cure for DIPG; and

WHEREAS, Emilie's legacy remains one of inspiration to us all, a reminder that every day is a gift and a blessing, and no matter what circumstance may befall you in life, "Just Keep Swimming".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Emilie Michelle Gibson and does hereby express heartfelt condolences to her family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Trey and Candice Gibson of Bossier City.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES