
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 342 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, LAUGHLIN, BROWNE, CAPPELLETTI, MENSCH,
GEBHARD, LANGERHOLC, HUGHES, REGAN, BARTOLOTTA, ARGALL, KANE,
DILLON, STREET, BROOKS, FONTANA, ROBINSON, PHILLIPS-HILL,
HUTCHINSON, COMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, STEFANO, DUSH AND COSTA,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2022 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
7 accidents; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society,
9 approximately 1,050 children are expected to die from cancer in
10 2022; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that
12 approximately 10,470 children in the United States under 15
13 years of age will be diagnosed with cancer in 2022; 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 ten institutions nationwide participating in the Pediatric
15 Oncology Experimental Therapeutic Investigators' Consortium; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, As of August 2022, the PCRF collected \$2,720,467;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Between fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the
25 Commonwealth has earmarked approximately \$20,000,000 from the
26 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to be allocated to pediatric
27 cancer research; and

28 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has invested in telepresence
29 educational equipment that childhood cancer patients utilize to
30 allow for greater remote learning opportunities during long

1 absences and to increase access to needed social supports; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Since THON's inception in 1973, the organization has
11 raised approximately \$203,000,000 for the kids; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September
13 2022 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
14 be it further

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

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