

Legislation Text

File #: 220696, **Version:** 0

Recognizing September 2022 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Philadelphia in honor of childhood cancer patients, care givers, survivors, and those children who have succumbed to the disease.

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection report cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children between infancy and age 15. This tragic disease is detected in more than 16,000 of our country's young people every year. An estimated 400,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer globally each year; and

WHEREAS, One in five of our nation's children loses his or her battle with cancer. Many infants, children and teens will suffer from long-term effects of comprehensive treatment, including secondary cancers; and

WHEREAS, Despite the significant unmet medical need, pharmaceutical companies have been reluctant to develop drugs appropriate for children with cancer because it requires making an investment in products that are unlikely to cover the high costs associated with their research, development, marketing, and distribution. Only 38 drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat any type of pediatric cancer since the 1980s compared to the 207 drugs approved by the FDA for adult cancers in just 5 years between 2016 and 2021; and

WHEREAS, Founded nearly thirty years ago by Steven Firestein, a member of the philanthropic Max Factor cosmetics family, the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc., Kids Cancer Connection, Inc. and Lions Clubs International are dedicated to helping these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection provide a variety of vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, as well as participating hospitals throughout the country, thereby enhancing the quality of life for these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection also sponsor toy distributions, pet-assisted therapy, family sailing programs, Laughternoon - Laughter is Healing events, KCC Supercar Experience, educational programs and hospital celebrations in honor of a child's determination and bravery to fight the battle against childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and every gesture of support counts; from visiting children's hospitals to donating teddy bears to making socks for little patients' feet. Giving a little bit of one's time is just as appreciated as giving part of one's paycheck for the cause of researching childhood cancers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby recognizes September 2022 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Philadelphia in honor of childhood cancer patients, care givers, survivors, and those children who have succumbed to the disease.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Steven and Amy Firestein of the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection, further evidencing the sincere admiration and gratitude of this legislative body.