

Legislation Text

File #: 200459, **Version:** 0

Recognizing September 2020 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, September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and every little 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; and

WHEREAS, Across the world, a child is diagnosed with cancer every 2 minutes. Each year, approximately 16,000 children between birth and age 19 are diagnosed with cancer in the United States. More than 40,000 children are treated for cancer each year. Approximately 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists cancer as the leading cause of death by disease in children and adolescents under age 14 in the United States. There are over a dozen types of childhood cancers, and numerous subtypes make it challenging to find cures for every form of childhood cancer. Most childhood cancer survivors have long-term health issues due to the treatments they received; by the time they are in their 30s and 40s, more than 95% have a chronic health problem, and 80% have severe or life-threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, Adults lose an average of 15 years of life to cancer, but children lose an average of 71 years of life to cancer. The average age of diagnosis of childhood cancer patients is 6 years old. Despite this comparatively massive loss of productive years, only 4% of United States federal funding is solely dedicated to childhood cancer research; 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 3 drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat any type of pediatric cancer since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is fortunate to have two of the top children's cancer hospitals in the world, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, who continuously advance the study and treatment of childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, In light of COVID-19, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is shifting its annual Parkway Run & Walk to a virtual format. Through the month of September, participants can register online, create teams, and track their miles. The goal is to reach 6,546 miles in honor of the 6,546 CHOP oncology patients treated in the past decade. All donations go toward pediatric cancer care and research; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby recognizes September 2020 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 the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, further evidencing the sincere admiration and gratitude of this legislative body.