

BY: Senator THOMAS

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2021, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, New York State's children are our greatest resource; childhood cancer is especially tragic; and

WHEREAS, A great number of children are impacted by childhood cancer; it is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 children under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in the United States in 2020; on average, about 1,000 New York children under the age of 20 are diagnosed annually; and

WHEREAS, Childhood cancer, the most common forms of which are leukemia and cancers of the brain and central nervous system, is the second leading cause of death in children under age 15 exceeded only by accidents, and is expected to take the lives of approximately 1,200 American children in 2020; on average, about 85 New York children die from cancer each year; and

WHEREAS, The causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown, research has advanced its successful treatment and improved the quality of life for children coping with cancer and the side-effects of treatment; although five-year survival rates have increased dramatically for some forms of childhood cancer, one out of eight children diagnosed with cancer does not survive; and

WHEREAS, The toll cancer takes on a child and family is unimaginable; a pediatric patient's expectations of a healthy, normal life, education, and growth may be put on hold, while parents must cope with high treatment costs, stress, and the difficulties associated with caring for their family while being with their child for treatment, often having to travel or relocate to do so; and

WHEREAS, Throughout this month these burdens are shared by countless dedicated healthcare professionals, organizations, and parent advocacy groups that support patients and families by offering advice, encouragement, hope, and financial assistance, and work tirelessly to lift the spirits of children suffering from cancer; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body reaffirms its commitment to encouraging continued early detection and treatment of childhood cancer and access to quality medical care for treatment and post-treatment options; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body further reaffirms its commitment to provide children and their families with access to information and the ability to interact with medical experts, researchers, and other affected individuals and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 2021, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York, and to encourage all New Yorkers to support families coping with childhood cancer, offer encouragement to patients, remember lost loved ones, and appreciate the efforts of those who work to treat and support children experiencing cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.