

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8676

By Senators Delvin, McCaslin, Morton, Murray, Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Spanel, Haugen, Kline, Honeyford, Benton, Clements, Parlette, Weinstein, Zarelli, Pflug, Hewitt and Brandland

WHEREAS, Modern medicine has made amazing advances in fighting pediatric cancer; pediatric cancer survivors are faced with a unique set of problems because of these advances; and

WHEREAS, Cure rates for pediatric cancers have risen dramatically during the past 20 years, and it is estimated that one in every 900 adults, aged 16 to 44, is a survivor of pediatric cancer; and

WHEREAS, Almost 70 percent of children diagnosed with brain cancer survive treatment today, a statistic that calls into focus the need to look at a child's quality of life in the years following treatment; and

WHEREAS, Pediatric cancer survivorship can come with a price in the form of long-term medical, financial, psychosocial, and/or neurocognitive problems due to chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery; and

WHEREAS, The major expenses of a pediatric cancer diagnosis and treatment are associated with the direct costs of medical care, including charges for hospitalizations, clinic visits, medications, tests and procedures, home health services of doctors and other professionals, and treatment including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and bone marrow or peripheral stem cell transplant; and

WHEREAS, Even well-insured, middle-class families with health insurance can find themselves in financial distress because of a single catastrophic illness, and even when insurance does not run out, health care costs can be staggering for the families of children with cancer; and

WHEREAS, The state of Washington recognizes that amazing advances have been made in the treatment of pediatric cancer and survivor rates; and

WHEREAS, Governor Christine O. Gregoire has proclaimed the week of March 25 through 31, 2007, as Pediatric Cancer Survivors Awareness Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate recognize the week of March 25 through 31, 2007, as Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Week in the state of Washington.