

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, neuroblastoma is a type of cancer that forms in the sympathetic nervous system of infants and young children; and

Whereas, neuroblastoma is a very serious childhood disease which is responsible for 12% of all cancer deaths in children under 15 years of age, accounts for about 7% of all cancers in children, and is the most common type of cancer among infants; and

Whereas, there are roughly 650 new cases of neuroblastoma each year in the United States causing a child to die every 16 hours from the disease; and

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute spends less than 3% of its budget and the American Cancer Society directs less than 2% of its research dollars towards pediatric cancer; and

Whereas, pediatric AIDS research receives four times more funding than childhood cancer even though childhood cancer is 20 times more prevalent; and

Whereas, physicians frequently face major challenges in diagnosing neuroblastoma because the symptoms are very similar to more common and less serious childhood illnesses, which results in delayed diagnosis; and

Whereas, by the time neuroblastoma is diagnosed, in roughly two out of three cases the disease has already spread to other parts of the body; and

Whereas, the children suffering from neuroblastoma often undergo treatment involving chemotherapy as well as surgery, and experience prolonged painful symptoms; and

Whereas, the families of children with neuroblastoma must deal with the potential of losing their child while at the same time face out of pocket expenses to treat childhood cancer of roughly \$40,000 a year, even with insurance coverage; and

Whereas, those suffering from neuroblastoma deserve recognition and support in their battle against this painful and deadly disease:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby declare November 14, 2015, as Neuroblastoma Cancer Awareness Day.