

RESOLUTION

Subject: Pediatric Cancer Research Funding

Submitted by: McCracken County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday;

and

WHEREAS, 43 children per day or 15,780 children are diagnosed with cancer annually in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time;

and

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years for adults' cancer diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease; and

WHEREAS, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe; and

WHEREAS, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer compared to more than 185 for adults; and

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for childhood cancer research represents only about 5% of total cancer research funding, giving states a critical role in overcoming the disparity between adult and childhood cancer research; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Cancer Registry has detected an 87% higher incidence of pediatric brain tumors in a 40-county area of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund was established to incentivize collaboration and innovation between the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville for cures with less toxicity for Kentucky children; and

WHEREAS, children diagnosed with cancer also have unique psychosocial needs and action should be taken to implement Psychosocial Standards of Care as part of comprehensive childhood cancer treatment; and

WHEREAS, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association supports the utilization of state budget appropriations to increase funding of childhood cancer research; and be it further

RESOLVED, in an effort to raise awareness and expand knowledge during the 2020 legislative session, the Kentucky Medical Association, through its communication vehicles, educate physician members and the public regarding the prevalence of childhood cancer in Kentucky and the current lack of necessary funding for childhood cancer research.