

2020 -- H 7971

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LC005208
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY 17, 2020, AS "DIPG AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Caldwell, Mattiello, McNamara, Shekarchi, and Filippi

Date Introduced: March 05, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) is the leading cause of cancer-
2 related childhood death due to brain tumors, and impacts approximately 150 to 300 children each
3 year in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, DIPG typically strikes children between the ages of four and eleven years
5 old; and

6 WHEREAS, DIPG is the deadliest childhood brain tumor, with a median survival rate
7 from the time of diagnosis of only 9 months, and only an approximately 2 percent 5-year survival
8 rate; and

9 WHEREAS, Because of its location in the brainstem where all motor activity is
10 controlled, DIPG is inoperable. The disease progresses by taking over a child's motor functions
11 one-by-one, typically starting with vision and balance problems, before moving to partial
12 paralysis, followed by the inability to chew, speak, swallow, move and eventually breathe – all of
13 this while the child remains mentally intact; and

14 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, treatment for DIPG remained the same and the
15 prognosis for children diagnosed with this deadly disease did not improve. But in the past few
16 years, due to better medical technology and increased access to tumor tissue, researchers have
17 made real advances in their understanding of this disease; and

18 WHEREAS, There is finally hope for progress in finding a cure - by raising awareness,
19 supporting expanded research, developing effective treatments, and providing comprehensive

1 care for children with DIPG and their families; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes May 17, 2020, as "DIPG Awareness Day" and
4 encourages all Rhode Islanders to become more informed about diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma
5 (DIPG) pediatric brain cancer, and moreover urges the National Cancer Institute and other
6 research funders to elevate their consideration in designating sufficient research funding for
7 pediatric cancers; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Wendy and Dean Fachon, and the Rhode Island
10 Congressional Delegation.

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