Resolution Recognizing September 2019 As Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and 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 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, 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, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American Childhood Cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support, and

WHEREAS, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, 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 National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) recognizes the month of September 2019 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLGA encourages young people fighting cancer, honors young people who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, and expresses gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care to patients and families affected by childhood cancer.

ADOPTED, this day, the 19th day of July, 2019.