

August 06, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Proclaiming September 2024 as “Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” in Los Angeles County

Throughout the United States, the month of September is recognized as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to bring awareness to pediatric cancer, which remains the leading cause of death from disease among children and adolescents under the age of 14. According to the National Cancer Institute, in the United States in 2024, an estimated 9,620 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed among children from ages 0-14. Although cancer death rates have declined by 70% over the last fifty years, about 1,040 children are expected to lose their battle with this disease in 2024.

Childhood cancers are rare, and there are no widely recommended screening tests to look for cancer in children who are not at increased risk. However, the World Health Organization notes that when identified early, childhood cancer is more likely to respond to treatment which results in a greater likelihood of survival and significant improvement in the lives of young patients. Cancers in children can be hard to recognize right away because early symptoms are often like those caused by much more common illnesses or injuries. Children often get sick or have bumps or bruises that might mask the early signs of cancer, so it is critical to get a child checked by a doctor if they have unusual signs or symptoms that do not go away.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

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HORVATH _____

Thanks to major advancements in treatment, the American Cancer Society estimates 85% of children with cancer will survive five years or more after being diagnosed. While the survival rate continues to increase, many infants, children and teens will suffer from side effects as well as long-term effects of comprehensive treatment. Organizations such as the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc., Kids Cancer Connection, Inc., and Lions Clubs International are dedicated to helping children and families impacted by childhood cancer. They provide a variety of vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, The City of Hope National Medical Center, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, Los Angeles General Medical Center, Miller Children's and Women's Hospital Long Beach, Children's and Women's Hospital Long Beach, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, as well as hospitals throughout the country. These events enhance the quality of life for these children and their families, honoring a child's determination and bravery to fight the battle against childhood cancer.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim September 2024 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Los Angeles County to help raise awareness and urge all residents to become educated on the issue of early cancer detection in children, to do their part in striving toward the end of childhood cancer.

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