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LRB101 08457 MST 53532 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Forty-eight years ago, with the passage of the  
3 National Cancer Act of 1971, leaders of the United States came  
4 together to establish cancer research and patient care as  
5 public health priorities; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2019, an estimated 606,880 Americans, or about  
7 1,660 people a day, are expected to die of cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, Cancer is the second most common cause of death in  
9 the United States, exceeded only by heart disease; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States, cancer accounts for nearly  
11 one in every four deaths; and

12 WHEREAS, The risk of being diagnosed with cancer increases  
13 with age, with 80% of new cases occurring at age 55 or later;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In the United States, men have a slightly greater  
16 than 39% lifetime probability of developing cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, In the United States, women have a nearly 38%  
18 lifetime probability of developing cancer; and

1           WHEREAS, A total of 68,560 new cases of cancer among  
2 Illinois residents will be reported in 2019; and

3           WHEREAS, In 2019, the American Cancer Society estimated  
4 24,410 cancer deaths to occur in Illinois; and

5           WHEREAS, Cancer touches everyone, either through a direct,  
6 personal diagnosis or indirectly through the diagnosis of a  
7 family member or friend; and

8           WHEREAS, According to the Sanger Institute, the Cancer Gene  
9 Census has identified more than 600 cancer-related genes, and  
10 the list of those genes will continue growing as researchers  
11 continue identifying genomic changes associated with different  
12 types of cancer; and

13           WHEREAS, Other external factors affect cancer risks,  
14 including, but not limited to, nutrition, physical activity,  
15 safe neighborhoods, healthy foods, access to education, and  
16 differences in occupational hazards, environmental exposure to  
17 pollution and other toxins; and

18           WHEREAS, According to the American Association for Cancer  
19 Research, advances in chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, and  
20 palliative care have led to important improvements in patient  
21 care and, as a result, increases in survival rates associated

1 with many cancers, including acute lymphoblastic leukemia,  
2 Hodgkin's disease, aggressive lymphomas, and testicular  
3 cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Advances in cancer care, including early  
5 detection and high-quality treatment programs, and access to  
6 health care coverage are necessary to provide cancer patients  
7 with an efficient and effective continuum of care; and

8 WHEREAS, Public policy can influence and support efficient  
9 cancer care by mitigating some of the economic and public  
10 health burdens on State agencies, including the Department of  
11 Public Health, the Department of Healthcare and Family  
12 Services, and the Department of Human Services; therefore, be  
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
16 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that an urgent and significant need  
17 exists to discuss and evaluate public policies affecting cancer  
18 research, treatment, education, and prevention efforts; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House  
21 of Representatives, by this resolution, express their support  
22 for the establishment of a joint legislative cancer caucus, to

1 be formally known as the Illinois Legislative Cancer Caucus;  
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Legislative Cancer Caucus  
4 shall act as a forum for legislators and affiliate members to  
5 learn about important public health issues related to cancer  
6 and to evaluate legislative proposals concerning those issues;  
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the members and affiliate members of the  
9 Illinois Legislative Cancer Caucus shall work to increase  
10 awareness and promote policies to prevent, treat, and educate  
11 the public about cancer, with the ultimate goal of identifying  
12 solutions to unmet needs; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Legislative Cancer Caucus  
14 shall work to strengthen community support programs, to meet  
15 the diverse needs of Illinois citizens, and to support programs  
16 that make treatment options available to the medically  
17 indigent; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the organizing members of the Illinois  
19 General Assembly respectfully request recognition within the  
20 Illinois General Assembly as the official caucus for issues  
21 related to cancer prevention, treatment, and education  
22 efforts; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 distributed to the members of the General Assembly, the  
3 Governor, the Director of Public Health, the Director of  
4 Healthcare and Family Services, and the Secretary of Human  
5 Services.