



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, with one in 285 children in the United States being diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, 43 children per day, or 15,780 children annually, are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S., with approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time; and

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is six years old, compared to 66 years for an adult cancer diagnosis, and 80 percent of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late, often with metastatic disease; and

WHEREAS, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in cancer rates per year since the mid 1970's, resulting in an overall 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 burden caused by 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 for such research; 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. Too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 2018, as

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama and urge all citizens to work toward finding a cure for all types of childhood cancer.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 5th day of July 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor