



SJ0071

LRB097 21162 JDS 68650 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Forty years ago, with the passage of the National
3 Cancer Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-218), leaders of the United States
4 came together to establish cancer research and patient care as
5 public health priorities; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 571,950 Americans, or more
7 than 1,500 people a day, were 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 1
11 in every 4 deaths; and

12 WHEREAS, The risk of being diagnosed with cancer increases
13 with age, with the majority of cases occurring in middle-aged
14 and older adults; and

15 WHEREAS, In the United States, men have slightly less than
16 a 1-in-2 lifetime risk of developing cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, In the United States, women have slightly more
18 than a 1-in-3 lifetime risk of developing cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, A total of 65,610 new cases of cancer among
2 Illinois residents were reported in 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, the American Cancer Society reported an
4 estimated 23,140 cancer deaths 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 American Association for Cancer
9 Research, the Human Genome Project has identified more than 290
10 cancer-related genes, and the list of those genes will continue
11 growing as researchers continue identifying genomic changes
12 associated with different types of cancer; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Scientific achievements have resulted in the U.S.
19 Food and Drug Administration's approval of 39 targeted cancer
20 therapies; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the American Association for Cancer
2 Research, advances in chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, and
3 palliative care have led to important improvements in patient
4 care and, as a result, increases in survival rates associated
5 with many cancers, including acute lymphoblastic leukemia,
6 Hodgkin's disease, aggressive lymphomas, and testicular
7 cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, Advances in cancer care, including early
9 detection and high-quality treatment programs, and access to
10 health care coverage are necessary to provide cancer patients
11 with an efficient and effective continuum of care; and

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

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 CONCURRING HEREIN, that an urgent and significant need exists
21 to discuss and evaluate public policies affecting cancer
22 research, treatment, education, and prevention efforts; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House
2 of Representatives, by this resolution, express their support
3 for the establishment of a joint legislative cancer caucus, to
4 be formally known as the Illinois Legislative Cancer Caucus;
5 and be it further

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the organizing members of the Illinois

1 General Assembly respectfully request recognition within the
2 Illinois General Assembly as the official caucus for issues
3 related to cancer prevention, treatment, and education
4 efforts; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 distributed to the members of the General Assembly, the
7 Governor, the Director of Public Health, the Director of
8 Healthcare and Family Services, and the Secretary of Human
9 Services.