

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DESIGNATING MAY 17 AS DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA AWARENESS DAY IN IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, brain tumors now rival leukemia as the leading cause of cancer-related death in children; and

WHEREAS, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) is the second most common malignant brain tumor in children; and

WHEREAS, DIPG affects 200 to 400 children in the United States each year, many between the ages of five and nine; and

WHEREAS, DIPG is a brain tumor found at the base of the brain; they arise from the brain's glial tissue, which consists of cells that support and protect the brain's neurons; and

WHEREAS, these tumors are found in an area of the brainstem called the pons, which controls many of the body's most vital functions, such as breathing, blood pressure and heart rate; and

WHEREAS, children with DIPG often exhibit signs of facial weakness, abnormal eye movement, loss of muscle control, difficulty walking, imbalanced limb movement, trouble chewing or swallowing, hearing issues, insomnia, loss of bladder or bowel control, trouble breathing, nausea and headaches; and

WHEREAS, while these children lose control of most of their bodily functions, they still retain the ability to comprehend their situation; and

WHEREAS, DIPG symptoms appear suddenly and are often misdiagnosed, but these tumors are highly aggressive and grow rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the causes of DIPG are unknown; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure for DIPG; and

WHEREAS, most children diagnosed with DIPG survive for only nine months after diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, DIPG has a zero percent survival rate; ultimately, children with DIPG fail to breathe or their hearts stop beating; and

WHEREAS, DIPG is a devastating childhood cancer that has tragic consequences for the young lives it seizes; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness will encourage crucial research on discovering a treatment for children with DIPG.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that May 17 of each year be designated as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day in Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes those whose lives have been touched by DIPG and encourages all Idahoans to become more informed about DIPG and pediatric brain cancer, so that more may be done to care for these children and to find a cure.