

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHEAT

A RESOLUTION

To recognize May 17, 2023, as Diffuse Midline Glioma/Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DMG/DIPG) Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, diffuse midline glioma (DMG), also referred to as diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), is an aggressive brain tumor that attacks the brainstem and slowly destroys all vital functions, even as cognitive function remains intact, rendering the affected person a prisoner in his or her own body; it is regarded by the medical community as the deadliest form of childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, diffuse midline glioma typically affects children who are between the ages of five and nine; tragically, while the medical community has been aware of diffuse midline glioma for four decades, they have been unable to develop any treatment, making the disease inoperable, incurable, and fatal; and

WHEREAS, diffuse midline glioma accounts for 10-20% of all brain tumors in young children, and individuals diagnosed with the disease face a median overall survival rate of only eight to twelve months; and

WHEREAS, Kallie Dickens, daughter of Hayley and Justin Dickens and sister of Kora Dickens, was diagnosed with diffuse midline glioma in June 2021; she endured unimaginable treatment regimens with grace, optimism, and a perpetual smile on her beautiful face; she tragically lost her battle in May 2022, eleven months after being diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Kallie's family carries the bright light of her memory through "Keeping A Light for Kallie", a charitable organization that supports pediatric cancer families both financially and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, it most fitting to recognize May 17, 2023, as Diffuse Midline Glioma/Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DMG/DIPG) Awareness Day in Louisiana to carry on the light of Kallie and all others who have passed as a result of this terrible disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 17, 2023, as Diffuse Midline Glioma/Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DMG/DIPG) Awareness Day in Louisiana and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that all Louisianians offer their support in hopes that we may one day find a cure to this and other terrible childhood diseases.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES