

By: Representative Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE MAY 17, 2018, AS
2 "DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA (DIPG) AWARENESS DAY" IN
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, in September 2016, the Centers for Disease Control
5 announced that brain tumors have become the leading cause of
6 childhood cancer death, surpassing leukemia; and

7 WHEREAS, of malignant brain tumors, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine
8 Glioma (DIPG) is the second most common among children, and is the
9 leading cause of childhood mortality due to brain tumors, with its
10 highly aggressive nature and difficulty to treat, given its
11 critical location at the base of the brain; and

12 WHEREAS, arising from the brain's glial tissue, which
13 consists of cells that support and protect the brain's neurons,
14 these tumors are found in an area of the brainstem called the
15 pons, which controls many of the body's most vital functions, such
16 as breathing, blood pressure and heart rate; and

17 WHEREAS, children with DIPG often exhibit signs of facial
18 weakness, abnormal eye movement, loss of muscle control,



19 difficulty walking, imbalanced limb movement, trouble chewing or
20 swallowing, hearing issues, insomnia, loss of bladder or bowel
21 control, trouble breathing, nausea and headaches; and

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

25 WHEREAS, with causes of development unknown, these tumors are
26 highly aggressive and grow rapidly with a sudden appearance of
27 symptoms that are often misdiagnosed, however current research
28 suggests that these tumors are not the result of environmental
29 factors or heredity, which poses a greater dilemma of finding a
30 viable solution for a cure; and

31 WHEREAS, approximately 300 children are diagnosed with DIPG
32 each year, usually between the ages of five and nine; and

33 WHEREAS, at this time, a DIPG diagnosis is tantamount to a
34 death sentence. This cancer has a zero percent survival rate, as
35 no child who has ever been diagnosed with DIPG has survived long
36 after diagnosis; and

37 WHEREAS, most children diagnosed with DIPG survive for only
38 nine months after diagnosis, ultimately failing to breathe or
39 their hearts stop beating; and

40 WHEREAS, during the month of May, there is a national focus
41 on childhood cancer and childhood brain tumors through the work of
42 families and other foundations, and Mississippi is most pleased to
43 help increase public awareness of this deadly childhood cancer and



44 commends the DIPG Foundation for its efforts to promote additional
45 funding for research and education programs to help save lives of
46 children diagnosed with DIPG; and

47 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to promote
48 health and wellness for all citizens of this state, and as such,
49 deems it an imperatively incumbent task to raise awareness about
50 the devastating childhood cancer, DIPG, that has tragic
51 consequences for the young lives of which it seizes hold:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
53 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
54 THEREIN, That we do hereby designate May 17, 2018, as "Diffuse
55 Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) Awareness Day" in Mississippi,
56 seeking both to recognize those lives that have been touched by
57 DIPG and to bring attention to the disease so that more may be
58 done to care for these children and to find a cure, and encourage
59 observance by all citizens.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
61 furnished to the University Medical Center, the Blair E. Batson
62 Children's Hospital and the State Department of Health for public
63 dissemination, and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

