

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution Number 2013 – 275 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION OR POLICY THAT WOULD ALLOW RESIDENTS TO DESIGNATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE FUNDED PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, 36 children in the United State will be diagnosed with cancer each day and at an average age of six years old; and

WHEREAS, one out of five children diagnosed with cancer will not survive the disease; and

WHEREAS, the types of cancers that affect children are most often very different from those that affect adults; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is not just one disease but is made up of a dozen types and countless subtypes of cancer; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer spares no socioeconomic, ethnic, racial or geographic class; and

WHEREAS, pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in US children under 15 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the causes of most pediatric cancers are largely unknown and not strongly linked to lifestyles, unlike adult cancers; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will develop long-lasting chronic conditions resulting from treatment; and

WHEREAS, the childhood cancer rates have been rising for the past few decades and approximately 11, 630 children in the US under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2013; and

WHEREAS, cancer kills more kids than AIDS, asthma, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and muscular dystrophy combined; and

WHEREAS, in the last 25 years only 2 drugs have been specifically developed for children's cancer; and

WHEREAS, less than 5% of the federal government's total funding for cancer research is dedicated to childhood cancers, and only about 3% of funds raised for the National Cancer Institute go directly to pediatric cancer research; and

WHEREAS, the funding for pediatric cancer research has gone down steadily since 2003; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer research is vastly and consistently under funded, and despite major advances in treatment, it is still critically important to conduct research and increase awareness regarding pediatric cancer; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research is a publicly funded program within the State Department of Health & Human Services; and

WHEREAS, funding for the State of New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research is voluntarily designated by the residents of the State of New Jersey by virtue of contributions made and designated on the State income tax returns filed by residents each year; and

WHEREAS, the NJ State income tax filing form NJ-1040 contains provisions whereby tax filers can make contributions to specific charities or causes; and

WHEREAS, said form provides for voluntary contributions to various causes including prostrate cancer research, breast cancer research, and lung cancer research; and

WHEREAS, whereas when taxpayers dedicate contributions to various causes on their NJ-1040 tax returns, those funds donated to various cancer research projects are placed in escrow by the NJ Commission on Cancer Research, a program within the State Department Of Health which ultimately disburses the funds through grant initiatives for research programs; and

WHEREAS, each cancer research program has justifiable cause; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the State of New Jersey have discerning values which should afford them the ability to dedicate their philanthropic contributions to the cause that most affects their individual beliefs and convictions; and

WHEREAS, pediatric cancer research should be included in the options made available to those wishing to contribute to cancer research programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor & Council of the Township of West Milford, does hereby urge the members of the State Senate and Assembly to institute policy or legislation that would make contributions to pediatric cancer research an option on the State's NJ-1040 income tax return thereby dedicating those voluntary contributions to pediatric cancer research.

Adopted: September 18, 2013

Adopted this 18th day of September, 2013
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk