

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 213 (Blanca Rubio)

As Introduced May 28, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Designates the month of September 2026 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to promote the awareness of childhood cancer and support families affected by this devastating disease, not just during September, but throughout the year.

Major Provisions

- 1) According to the National Cancer Institute, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease for children in the United States.
- 2) The American Cancer Society estimated that approximately 9,550 children in the United States under 15 years of age would be diagnosed with cancer in 2025. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately one out of every six children are not expected to live past five years.
- 3) Many children in California are afflicted with cancer, experiencing enormous pain and suffering, and they and their families require extraordinary levels of information and support in their struggles against this disease.
- 4) The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all other cancers with the exception of breast cancer.
- 5) As a result of major treatment advances in recent decades, more than 85% of children with cancer now survive five years or more.
- 6) Due to children's bodies still growing and cancer treatments largely geared toward use on adults, children are more likely to experience long-term side effects from treatment.
- 7) Possible late effects of cancer treatments include, but are not limited to, heart or lung problems, slowed or delayed development, changes in sexual development and the ability to have children, learning disabilities, and increased risk of secondary forms of cancer.
- 8) California has many of the world's finest medical, academic, and commercial institutions. The treatment of cancer requires a high level of commitment to provide the necessary resources and research that not only Californians have access to, but families all across the United States and the world travel to California for its extraordinary treatment and clinical trials.
- 9) Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is an important nationwide tool for raising awareness among governmental officials and the public on the nature and scope of this problem.
- 10) Individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the state are encouraged to participate in activities and events that promote the awareness of childhood cancer and support families affected by this devastating disease, not just during September, but throughout the year.

COMMENTS**According to the Author**

Thousands of California children are diagnosed with cancer every year, and far too many families must navigate this devastating journey without adequate awareness, resources, or support. California's 2026–2036 Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan recognizes the urgency of this issue by including a dedicated childhood cancer chapter for the first time and prioritizing public awareness efforts. ACR 213 strengthens that statewide commitment.

Arguments in Support

The Joey's Wings Foundation and the Neev Kolte Foundation write in support: "Many children in California face cancer every year encountering enormous amounts of pain and suffering. While California is a principal aspect in fostering advanced cancer treatment and institutions, ACR 213 pushes individuals and organizations in the state to be encouraged to become involved in events and activities that promote awareness of childhood cancer."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES**ASM RULES: 8-0-1**

YES: Pacheco, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Ta, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez

ABS, ABST OR NV: Zbur

UPDATED

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