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LRB103 42361 LAW 75585 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Remarkable advances in cancer science are creating more effective treatments and cures for patients affected by cancer; and

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WHEREAS, Unfortunately, many cancer patients do not benefit from these treatment advances, and some die needlessly as a result; and

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WHEREAS, Surviving cancer is directly related to early detection and access to appropriate treatment, including advanced and sub-specialty care; and

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WHEREAS, Many Illinois residents do not have access to advanced cancer centers offering the latest research and treatment for their specific cancer type due to their insurance, means, or other factors; and

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WHEREAS, Of the 2 million Americans the American Cancer Society estimates will be diagnosed with cancer in 2024, more than 78,000 individuals are predicted to be diagnosed in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Cancer care is increasingly reliant on genetic and genomic testing to direct care for each individual

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1 patient; and

2 WHEREAS, It is now understood that access to  
3 multidisciplinary supportive care while undergoing treatment  
4 can significantly impact outcomes and survival for cancer  
5 patients; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a growing understanding that there are  
7 hundreds of different cancer types and each may require  
8 different types of therapy; the complexities of cancer care  
9 include relying on the accuracy of the initial diagnosis, the  
10 choice of therapy, and access to appropriate clinical trials;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, There is significant variability in the ability  
13 of medical oncologists to stay current with the most recent  
14 evidence due to the complexities of cancer care in the  
15 precision medicine era; and

16 WHEREAS, For many cancer patients, the first chance for a  
17 cure is the best chance for a cure, highlighting the need for  
18 access to appropriate expertise early in the cancer journey;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, There are disparities in cancer outcomes and  
21 access to leading-edge clinical trials based on race and

1 socioeconomic status that are unfavorable to those that are  
2 the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; and

3 WHEREAS, The speed of discovery in cancer diagnosis,  
4 treatment, and surveillance is creating a widening gap between  
5 the optimal care received by those with means and the  
6 substandard care too often received by the most vulnerable  
7 residents of Illinois, which will only worsen if it is not  
8 addressed; this reality reflects an important truth that  
9 cancer care is different from other types of health care, and  
10 the needs of cancer patients are different from those with  
11 other illnesses; and

12 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Illinois policymakers  
13 prioritize appropriate and timely access to expert cancer care  
14 for patients; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we endorse the following principles as the Cancer Patients'  
18 Bill of Rights to express our support that cancer patients in  
19 the State receive the best cancer care available:

20 (1) Cancer patients with complex cancers deserve  
21 access to specialized expertise and emerging treatments  
22 for their specific type of cancer, including precision  
23 medicine and genomic therapies, which are only available

1 at advanced cancer centers;

2 (2) Cancer patients deserve multidisciplinary  
3 supportive care while undergoing treatment, including care  
4 that addresses pain, emotional, and overall health needs;

5 (3) Cancer patients should have the opportunity to  
6 access emerging therapies informed by the latest cancer  
7 research through relevant early-stage and late-stage  
8 clinical trials, which are often only available at cancer  
9 treatment institutions;

10 (4) To the extent possible, cancer patients should be  
11 able to receive timely cancer care in their community,  
12 which is often supported by partnerships between community  
13 providers and academic institutions; and

14 (5) Cancer patients have a right to fully understand  
15 their diagnoses and be informed about treatment options in  
16 culturally appropriate and understandable languages; and  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies be delivered to Governor JB  
19 Pritzker and Director Elizabeth M. Whitehorn of the Department  
20 of Healthcare and Family Services.