

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 617

Designating July 22, 2020, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2020

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY 22, 2020

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 22, 2020, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

Whereas more than 13,000 new cases of glioblastoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2020;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

- (1) the most common malignant (cancerous) brain tumor, accounting for 48 percent of all primary malignant brain tumors; and
- (2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma every year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 6.8 percent, and the average length of survival for glioblastoma patients is estimated to be only 12 to 18 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the “essence of self”, as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas, relative to other types of cancers, brain cancer has—

(1) the highest per-patient initial cost of care, with an annualized mean net cost of care approaching \$150,000; and

(2) the highest annualized mean net costs for last-year-of-life care, with a cost of between \$135,000 and \$210,000 per patient, depending on the age and gender of a patient;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain, and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 4 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat glioblastoma since the 1920s, and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research and treatment advances for glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates July 22, 2020, as “Glioblastoma
3 Awareness Day”;

4 (2) encourages increased public awareness of
5 glioblastoma;

6 (3) honors the individuals who have lost their
7 lives to glioblastoma, a devastating disease, or are
8 currently living with it;

9 (4) supports efforts to develop better treat-
10 ments for glioblastoma that will improve the long-
11 term prognosis of individuals diagnosed with glio-
12 blastoma;

13 (5) expresses its support for the individuals who
14 are battling brain tumors, as well as the families,
15 friends, and caregivers of those individuals; and

16 (6) urges a collaborative approach to brain
17 tumor research, which is a promising means of ad-
18 vancing the understanding and treatment of glio-
19 blastoma.

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