

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Monday
February 11, 2019

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Senator Dana L. Dow of Lincoln County.

SENATOR DOW: Good evening. The words this evening will be from the Apostle Paul in Romans. And he says: I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers neither, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. I speak the truth in Christ. I am not lying. My conscience confirms that through the Holy Spirit. May the Lord add His blessing upon this thought tonight. Thank you.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Eloise A. Vitelli of Sagadahoc County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, February 7, 2019.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 11

Ordered, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature be held at 6:30 this evening in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, an invitation to attend the convention and make such communication as pleases her.

READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, to deliver the message to the House of Representatives. The Senator was escorted to the House of Representatives.

Subsequently, the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ORDERS

Joint Resolution

On motion by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford (Cosponsored by Representative **HEAD** of Bethel and Representative: **MILLETT** of Waterford), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 238

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH 2019
AS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, in the United States, 15,780 children under 21 years of age are diagnosed with cancer every year and approximately 1/4 of them will not survive the disease; and **WHEREAS**, the causes of pediatric cancer are still largely unknown and, though new discoveries are resulting in new treatments, this disease continues to harm families and communities with wounds that may never fully heal; and **WHEREAS**, due to ongoing advances in research and treatment, the 5-year survival rate for all childhood cancers has climbed from less than 50% to 80% over the past several decades; and **WHEREAS**, researchers around the world continue to pioneer new therapies and explore the root causes of the disease, driving progress that could provide cures or improved outcomes for patients; and **WHEREAS**, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month will put a spotlight on the survivorship issues that children and families face, the types of cancer that largely affect children, recent gains against the disease and challenges that still lie ahead and will help raise funds for research and family support; now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to proclaim March 2019 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and urge citizens of the State to become informed about childhood cancer, including both the issues that are involved and the progress that is being made.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** President Jackson, I rise today to speak in favor of this Joint Resolution. The causes of pediatric cancer are still largely unknown and treatments have been discovered but, as was stated, the disease continues to inflict such harm on families in our communities. This Joint Resolution recognizes March as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month for Maine and it was proposed by Tabaiitha Steward of Hailey Hugs, a charitable organization here in Maine founded by John and Tabaiitha Steward and their beautiful daughter, Hailey. Hailey was diagnosed with cancer in October of 2012 and lost her battle on September 23, 2017. Before her death, Hailey advocated on

behalf of other children and is a beautiful light in her community. Today the Hailey Hugs team continues to champion the children and the families affected by childhood cancer, raising awareness and fundraising to help ease the financial burden of everyday expenses in these times of crisis. According to the National Cancer Institute, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 15 and nearly 2,000 children die of cancer each year in the United States. The rates in Maine are higher than the national average. Although there are a handful of organizations that aid families and their children during these horrific times while enduring treatment the need is still greater. Childhood cancer research also receives significantly less attention and funding than other cancers. To be alive is to experience deep heartache but there is a particular devastation in a child battling cancer. Just like Hailey, all those families and children who are in a fight for life want greater attention to this terrible disease and its devastating affect here in Maine. The first step is acknowledgement. Therefore it is right for us to set aside a time to recognize the courageous heroes, some who are here with us tonight, who are also the victims of childhood cancer and designate March 2019 as Maine Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Thank you.

Following the Joint Convention the Senate was called to order in the Senate Chamber by the President.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED** until Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 10:00 in the morning.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Tabaitha Steward and all other families affected by childhood cancer. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that the House concurred with the proposition for a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 6:30 in the evening for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, an invitation to attend the convention and make such communication as pleases her.

At this point the Senate retired to the Hall of the House where a Joint Convention was formed.