Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County, Michigan

Proclamation
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
By the Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion

Whereas, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children; and

Whereas, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

Whereas, 43 children per day, or 15,780 children annually, are diagnosed with cancer in the United States; and

Whereas, there are approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time; and

Whereas, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years for adults’ cancer diagnosis; and

Whereas, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease; and

Whereas, on average there has been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970s resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years; and

Whereas, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one-quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening; and

Whereas, approximately one-half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe; and

Whereas, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer; and

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out; and

Whereas, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American Childhood Cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional, and financial support; and

Whereas, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer; and

Whereas, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure; and

Whereas, Blanche Sims Elementary School will be hosting a “Go Gold for Childhood Cancer” Day on Friday, September 18, 2020; and

Whereas, even through distance learning, families will be asked to wear gold and post pictures.

Now, Therefore, I, Chris Barnett, Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion, Michigan, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Orion Township and encourage the residents of our community to Go Gold for Childhood Cancer on Friday, September 18, 2020 by wearing gold and posting pictures, and to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to support this cause that so deeply impacts families in every community across our country.

Issued September 8, 2020

Chris Barnett, Supervisor
Charter Township of Orion