

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, September is childhood cancer awareness month and all children regardless of who they are, deserve a childhood and a chance to grow up; and

WHEREAS, during this awareness month, advocates, non-profits, health care professionals, researchers, and family's impacted want Floridians to know the prevalence and reality that children facing cancer experience each and every day; and

WHEREAS, pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children yet is grossly under-funded and under-researched, and 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have long lasting chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, and in the last 20 years there have only been four new drugs approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, foundations, researchers, and healthcare professionals are working diligently to treat and cure pediatric cancer but need the support from all of us, and too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and ultimately find a cure.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **September 2024** be designated as

"Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"

in Marion County, Florida, and call upon all citizens to do their part in observing this month and raising awareness for a cause that deeply impacts families in our community and communities across the nation.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 4th day of **September, 2024**.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

MICHELLE STONE, CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, VICE CHAIR

CARL ZALAK, III, COMMISSIONER

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER