

**CHARLENE MIERS FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

National Cure Cancer Month Observance Act

HR. _____

111th CONGRESS

2nd Session

HR. _____

To increase public awareness, commitment, and contributions to find a cure for cancer, provide for the observance of a National Cure Cancer Month, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

_____, 2010

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A BILL

To direct national attention to finding a cure for cancer, provide for the observance of a National Cure Cancer Month, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the National Cure Cancer Month Observance Act.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings- Congress makes the following findings:

(1) One in 2 men and one in 3 women are expected to develop cancer in their lifetimes.

(2) Cancer is anticipated to become the leading cause of death in the United States in the next 2-3 years.

(3) The National Institutes of Health has estimated that the overall cost of cancer to the United States was more than \$220,000,000,000.

(4) In recent decades, the biomedical research enterprise has made considerable advances in the knowledge required to understand, prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer; however, it still takes many years, on average, to translate these discoveries into viable treatment options.

(5) There is a recognized need to provide significantly more information to the public about the need for early and frequent screening for cancer.

(6) There is recognized public sentiment for decreasing the loss of life, suffering and financial losses that are being caused by cancer.

(7) The National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218) advanced the ability of the United States to develop new scientific leads and help increase the rate of cancer survivorship.

(8) Yet in the 38 years since the national declaration of the War on Cancer, the age adjusted mortality rate for cancer is still extraordinarily high. Eight forms of cancer have a 5-year survival rate of less than 50 percent (pancreatic, liver, lung, esophageal, stomach, brain, multiple myeloma, and ovarian).

(9) While there have been substantial achievements since the crusade began, the nation is far from winning the war on cancer.

(10) The observance of a Cancer Control Month in April each year has previously been authorized and requested speaking in terms of a program for the control of cancer;

(11) An announced change of the literal and substantive policy goal and purpose of a national observance about cancer is warranted to make the goal and purpose the complete cure of cancer instead of merely control of the disease.

(12) An observance in the month of January tied to the origins of the War on Cancer and at the beginning of each year in order to more fully direct the nation's attention to what has been achieved, is planned, and remains necessary to cure cancer is in the national interest.

(b) Purposes –The purposes of this Act are:

(1) To advance the national cancer program and accelerate and advance the discovery of more effective ways to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure cancer.

(2) To establish a National Cure Cancer Month to increase public awareness, commitment, contributions and service for finding a cure for cancer.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CURE CANCER MONTH ESTABLISHED

Title 36, Section 103 of the United States Code is amended to read:

“SEC. 103. NATIONAL CURE CANCER MONTH.

(a) Designation--- The month of January is National Cure Cancer Month.

(b) Proclamation.— The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on—

(1) State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe National Cure Cancer Month with appropriate programs and activities;

(2) the chief executive officers of the States, territories, and possessions of the United States to issue proclamations designating January as National Cure Cancer Month;

(3) the people of the United States to recognize the nationwide threat and problem of cancer and to support the national program to cure cancer and all other essential programs required to meet and overcome the threat, solve the problem and cure cancer;

(4) all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States and interested organizations and individuals to display the flag of the United States at half staff on a day in January each year in honor of the individuals who lost their lives to cancer; and

(5) the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence on a day in January in honor of the individuals who lost their lives to cancer, and to pray and resolve to do all things possible to save the lives of others who have or had cancer, and to find a cure for cancer as soon as possible.

(c) The President is requested to join with the Congress to arrange and conduct a memorial service on a day during National Cure Cancer Month in honor and memory of all Americans who have died of cancer, which service may be in the Capitol or such other place as they determine to be appropriate for it.

(d) The President is requested to join with Congress to arrange and conduct a conference during prime television time during National Cure Cancer Month at which the President, members of the Congress, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Director of the National Cancer Institute, and other persons they select, speak about and report on the the national program to cure cancer.

(e) The President is requested to join with Congress to arrange and conduct a parade, assembly, entertainment, concert, rally or similar event on during National Cure Cancer Month for the purpose of inspiration to the nation to win the War on Cancer, celebrating achievements saving life and the American survivors who have won against cancer, and their families and health care providers, and to reconfirm and applaud a unified national goal to cure cancer at the earliest possible time.

(f) The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the National Cancer Institute to provide a report to the President and the Congress for publication in National Cure Cancer Month to provide the most current information about what has been achieved, is being done and planned and is considered as remaining necessary to cure cancer. The report shall contain information useful to all persons as to what action they may take to most effectively prevent and cure cancer at the earliest possible time.

(g) The Secretary of Health and Human Services and Director of the National Cancer Institute, the President and the Congress, during National Cure Cancer Month shall take such actions as they determine necessary and appropriate to:

(1) achieve the greatest public recognition of National Cure Cancer Month and their purposes;

(2) achieve greatest possible public recognition of the progress and further action needed to find a cure for cancer;

(3) invite the medical and scientific professions, academic institutions, the press, radio, television and internet media, governmental agencies, businesses, charitable organizations and individuals, including cancer survivors, patients, victims and their families, and others interested in a national program or effort to discover and use more effective means of preventing, treating and controlling cancer by education and other cooperative means to unite during National Cure Cancer Month in a public dedication to the such program and in a concerted effort to make the people of the United States aware of the need for such program;

(3) facilitate communication by all persons of their desires, proposals, recommendations and needs to Congress, the National Cancer Institute and any other organizations or institutions with respect to finding a cure for cancer;

(4) encourage and enable state and local governments, private charitable organizations and institutions and businesses to advocate and support finding a cure for cancer; and

(5) encourage and support public and private sector activities, and the contribution of funds, services and other things in support of the national cancer program and finding a cure of a cancer.”

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on date of enactment of this Act.