## ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 103

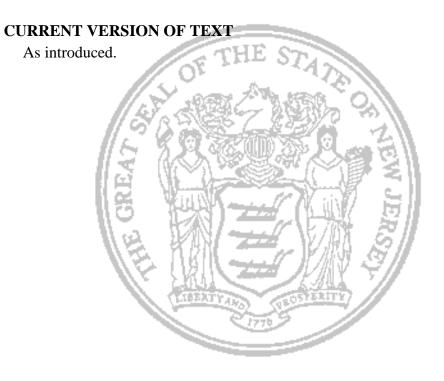
## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 12, 2018

Sponsored by: Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic) Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic) Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY District 7 (Burlington) Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

## **SYNOPSIS**

Permanently designates January as "NUT Carcinoma Awareness Month" in New Jersey.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2020)

2

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION permanently designating January as "NUT 2 Carcinoma Awareness Month" in New Jersey. 3 WHEREAS, NUT carcinoma, formerly known as NUT midline 4 5 carcinoma, is a rare, genetically defined, aggressive squamous cell 6 epithelial cancer; and 7 WHEREAS, NUT carcinoma is characterized by a chromosomal 8 rearrangement in the nuclear protein of the testis gene (a DNA-9 binding protein encoded by the SRY gene that is responsible for the 10 initiation of male sex determination in humans); and 11 WHEREAS, This form of cancer typically affects boys, although the 12 first documented case of the disease was a 12 year old girl, and sometimes presents in adults; and 13 14 WHEREAS, NUT carcinoma occurs in the midline of the body, 15 including the head, neck, and thoracic cavity, and may involve the 16 nostrils, epiglottis, sinuses, and bladder; and WHEREAS, Symptoms of NUT carcinoma are similar to other cancers, 17 18 and dependent on the stage of the cancer. While generalized symptoms such as weight loss and fatigue may occur, tumors in the 19 20 head, neck, and the thoracic cavity region are more specific to this 21 form of cancer; and 22 **WHEREAS**, NUT carcinoma is very resistant to standard chemotherapy 23 treatments, and once diagnosed with this form of cancer, the 24 average survival rate is nine months; and 25 WHEREAS, Benjamin Landel was born to Rob and Tricia Landel on 26 November 12, 1999 in Ridgewood New Jersey ; and 27 WHEREAS, A Ramapo High School soccer and track star, Ben was diagnosed with NUT carcinoma at the age of 17; and 28 29 WHEREAS, Ben was a determined, courageous, confident, and 30 inspiring teenager who overcame many obstacles while battling 31 cancer; and 32 WHEREAS, In response to his diagnosis, his coach and teammates 33 created a social media fundraising campaign, the "Ben Landel 34 Cross Bar Challenge"; and 35 WHEREAS, The campaign went viral and attracted high-profile supporters such as Carli Lloyd, a member of the United States 36 37 Women's Soccer Team. A GoFundMe campaign tied to the challenge raised nearly \$43,000 for Ben's medical bills; and 38 39 WHEREAS, Although Ben spent the last nine months of his life 40 enduring multiple surgeries and chemotherapy, when his parents asked him what he wanted for Christmas, he asked that a portion of 41 the money raised for his treatment be donated to pediatric cancer 42 43 research; and 44 WHEREAS, Although NUT carcinoma is an aggressive and usually 45 fatal disease, new surgical treatments and radiotherapy regimens are 46 improving survival rates; now, therefore,

## AJR103 ROONEY, DEPHILLIPS

3

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and General Assembly of the 2 State of New Jersey: 3 1. The month of January shall be permanently designated as 4 5 "NUT Carcinoma Awareness Month" in the State of New Jersey in order to raise public awareness about this aggressive form of cancer 6 7 and the new treatment regimens that are improving survival rates, 8 and to honor the inspiring life of Benjamin Landel whose generosity 9 led him to help others who were undergoing their own battles with 10 cancer. 11 12 2. The Governor is respectively requested to annually issue a proclamation recognizing January as "NUT Carcinoma Awareness 13 Month" in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and the 14 15 citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate 16 activities and programs. 17 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, 18 19 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the 20 Secretary of the Senate to the Matthew Larson Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer. 21 22 23 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately. 24 25 26 **STATEMENT** 27 This joint resolution permanently designates the month of 28 29 January as "NUT Carcinoma Awareness Month" in the State of 30 New Jersey in order to raise public awareness about this aggressive 31 form of cancer and the new treatment regimens that are improving 32 survival rates, and to honor the inspiring life of Benjamin Landel 33 whose generosity led him to help others who were undergoing their

34 own battles with cancer.