

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1602**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Patrick M. O'Connor***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act improving pediatric cancer research.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2025</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>7/7/2025</i>
<i>Adam Gómez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>9/10/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>9/10/2025</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>9/11/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1602**

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By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1602) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to improve pediatric cancer research. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2496 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act improving pediatric cancer research.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 2AAAAAA the following section:-

3 Section 2BBBBBB. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the  
4 Commonwealth a Pediatric Cancer Research and Resource Project Trust Fund for the purpose of  
5 providing grants for pediatric cancer research projects and pediatric cancer resource projects for  
6 use in the Commonwealth.

7 (b) The fund shall be credited with: (i) appropriations or other money authorized or  
8 transferred by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) funds  
9 from public and private sources, including but not limited to gifts, grants, and donations and (iii)  
10 any interest earned on such money.

11 (c) Subject to appropriation, amounts credited to the fund shall be used for grants for  
12 pediatric cancer research and pediatric cancer resource projects in the Commonwealth. Money  
13 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

14 (d) As uses in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless  
15 the context clearly requires otherwise:

16 “Pediatric cancer research project”, a scientific research project focusing on the causes,  
17 prevention, education, screening, or cure of pediatric cancer, or the symptoms or effects  
18 experienced by patients following completion of a course of treatment for pediatric cancer, and  
19 may include basic, clinical and epidemiologic research. No more than 5 percent of awarded  
20 funding may be used for operational costs incurred by awardees.

21 “Pediatric cancer resource project”, an educational, informational, awareness or  
22 fundraising project that benefits the commonwealth and improves the lives of individuals  
23 afflicted by pediatric cancer through an enhanced understanding of the diagnosis, financial  
24 impact and long-term health impacts of pediatric cancer and provides support to reduce its  
25 psychosocial and educational burden. No more than 5 percent of awarded funding may be used  
26 for operational costs incurred by awardees.

27 SECTION 2. The executive office of Health and Human Services shall establish a  
28 permanent advisory committee to award and allocate grants for pediatric cancer research and  
29 pediatric cancer resource projects in the Commonwealth. The advisory committee’s membership  
30 shall consist of 7 members appointed by the secretary of health and human services 2 of whom  
31 shall be survivors of pediatric cancer or caregivers to individuals with pediatric cancer, 1 of

32 whom shall be a representative of a nationwide pediatric cancer advocacy non-profit and 4 of  
33 whom shall be professionals from the pediatric cancer field.

34 Not later than August 1, the executive office of Health and Human Services shall submit  
35 an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, Joint Committee on  
36 Public Health, And Joint Committee on Healthcare Finance detailing the number, amounts, and  
37 recipients of the grants awarded pursuant to section 2BBBBBB of chapter 29 of the General  
38 Laws, the resulting research, return on investment, and other relevant information as requested  
39 by the special committee.