

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Smiles from Heaven and Fight Like a Kid are making a
2 positive difference in the lives of children who are battling
3 cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Ray and Betsy Sanchez established Smiles from Heaven
5 in loving memory of their two-year-old daughter, Bella Serena
6 Sanchez, who passed away on April 9, 2019, following her fight with
7 leukemia; the organization is dedicated to promoting childhood
8 cancer awareness and to giving support, assistance, and hope to
9 children and families receiving treatment for pediatric cancer or
10 blood disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, In partnership with Smiles from Heaven, the Fight
12 Like a Kid coalition assists children and families battling cancer
13 and blood disorders by offering them access to programs and support
14 that help them flourish beyond the challenges of cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death
16 for children past infancy in the United States; each year,
17 approximately 413,000 children around the world receive the
18 devastating news that they have cancer, but thanks to improvements
19 in treatment, 85 percent of patients with pediatric cancer in the
20 U.S. will go on to survive for five years or more; and

21 WHEREAS, Each September, Smiles from Heaven observes
22 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with events that spotlight
23 children and families affected by the disease; these include the
24 organization's annual superhero-themed run/walk events in Laredo

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1 and Corpus Christi, as well as spirit week fundraisers and Gold Out
2 Nights hosted in collaboration with local high schools; and

3 WHEREAS, Smiles from Heaven and Fight Like a Kid have been
4 sources of compassionate guidance to families going through a
5 difficult and uncertain journey, and it is a pleasure to recognize
6 these commendable organizations and the inspiring work they have
7 accomplished; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor Smiles from Heaven and Fight Like a Kid for
10 their service to and advocacy in behalf of children living with
11 cancer and extend to all those affiliated with the organizations
12 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
14 for the organizations as an expression of high regard by the Texas
15 House of Representatives.

Raymond

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 956 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House