

20109217D

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 246

Offered March 2, 2020

*Commending Colleen Rathgeber.*

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Patron—Bell

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WHEREAS, Colleen Rathgeber used her background with both corporate and philanthropic organizations to establish the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation as a central support network for children diagnosed with Legg-Calve-Perthes disease and their families; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Rathgeber, who previously worked for Yahoo!, CareerBuilder, AOL, and the Los Angeles Times, first became aware of Legg-Calve-Perthes disease (Perthes) in 2016 when her daughter, Kaelan, was diagnosed with the condition, which affects roughly five in 100,000 children between the ages of four and eight and causes an interruption of blood flow to the hip; and

WHEREAS, Perthes causes painful bone and tissue damage and, while many cases resolve themselves by age 10, treatment requires restricting a child's activity to prevent lasting damage; frustrated by the lack of information on the disease, Colleen Rathgeber cofounded the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation as a nonprofit organization to provide hope and support to other parents; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Rathgeber and the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation aim to empower families to deal with the challenges of pain management, the frustration of activity restriction, the difficulty of navigating the school system, and the trials of daily life related to the disease; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation hosted a Perthes conference in Dallas, Texas, that was attended by 25 parents and 25 surgeons and hospital employees from around the country, who shared their stories and insights into the fight against the disease; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Rathgeber also sponsored a Perthes awareness event at a Washington Nationals game in 2018 and oversaw the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation's acceptance into the National Organization for Rare Disorders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Colleen Rathgeber, cofounder of the Legg Calve Perthes Foundation, for her work to enhance research, education, and awareness of the rare disease; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Colleen Rathgeber as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her legacy of compassionate support for children with Legg-Calve-Perthes disease and their families.

INTRODUCED

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