

**Bite Me Cancer Foundation's Statement on Virginia's *Teen Cancer Awareness Week*
Proclamation; Participates with Governor Terry McAuliffe at Signing Ceremony**

HERNDON, Va. – July 31, 2014 – Today, along with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Delegates Tom Rust (R-86) and Ken Plum (D-36), Nikki Ferraro and her Bite Me Cancer Foundation participated in the signing of a gubernatorial proclamation for the new *Teen Cancer Awareness Week* that will be held on January 19-23, 2015. Additionally, House Joint Resolution 161, designating the third week in January, in 2015 and in each succeeding year, as *Teen Cancer Awareness Week* in Virginia was unanimously passed by the Virginia General Assembly earlier this year.

Bite Me Cancer also invited some local teenagers battling cancer and their families to join them in the signing of the proclamation by Governor McAuliffe. Cancer among adolescents is still the leading cause of death from disease in teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19. In recognition of this, Bite Me Cancer was formed in 2010 to support teenagers with cancer while its founder (Nikki Ferraro) was going through her own cancer battle at the age of 17 years old. Nikki was diagnosed with a rare form of Thyroid Cancer in April 2010, and she formed Bite Me Cancer in September 2010.

Talking about the significance of this designation, Nikki stated, "This is a critical step forward in publically recognizing the unique needs that teenagers with cancer deal with and how they deserve specific support which is different than for younger children or young adults. When I was diagnosed at 17 years old, I received a few support bags for much younger children, and I couldn't find anyone who could relate to what I was going through." Ferraro continued, "We are extremely grateful to the Governor, the resolution's patrons: Delegates Rust, Plum, Comstock, LeMunyon, and Ransone, and to the General Assembly as a whole for establishing *Teen Cancer Awareness Week* in support of teenagers with cancer across the Virginia."

To learn more about Bite Me Cancer and its mission, please visit: www.bitemecancer.org. Bite Me Cancer distributes their Teen Support Bag to hospitals across the country to be given out to teenagers being treated for cancer. Along with supporting teenagers with all cancers, Bite Me Cancer also raises funds for Thyroid Cancer research, as it is one of the fastest growing cancer in the United States.