



Member Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
B+ Foundation
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children's Oncology Group
CureSearch for Children's Cancer
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
National Children's Cancer Society
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Pediatric Psychology
St. Baldrick's Foundation

Partner Organizations

American Brain Tumor Association
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Radiation Oncology
Cancer Support Community
Chai Lifeline
Livestrong Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Patient Advocate Foundation

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, a coalition of national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations, would like to share our support for the *Childhood Cancer Survivors' Quality of Life Act* and express our gratitude for your leadership on this critical child health issue. The Alliance for Childhood Cancer aims to advance policies that improve the diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer, and we believe this legislation represents an important step forward in enhancing research and programs for young cancer survivors.

The population of survivors of childhood cancer has grown exponentially in the last 50 years and today there are more than 360,000 survivors of all ages in the United States. Unfortunately, as many as two-thirds of these individuals are likely to experience at least one late effect of their disease or treatment, and one-fourth experience effects that are serious or life threatening. Second cancers, heart and lung damage, osteoporosis, financial pressures, psychosocial issues, neurocognitive effects, and employment and fertility problems are among the many challenges faced by childhood cancer survivors.

The 2003 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, "*Childhood Cancer Survivorship: Improving Care and Quality of Life*" outlined a number of recommendations to improve the outlook and quality of life for this unique population. The *Childhood Cancer Survivors' Quality of Life Act* would establish vital programs to improve care for childhood cancer survivors, consistent with the recommendations of this landmark IOM report. In particular, this legislation will enhance research on late effects and health care disparities; create pilot programs to evaluate model systems of care and identify the most effective ways to provide follow-up care to survivors; authorize grants to establish clinics to provide comprehensive, long-term follow-up care; and strengthen the emphasis on psychosocial care for childhood cancer survivors.

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer thanks you for sponsoring the *Childhood Cancer Survivors' Quality of Life Act* and we applaud your ongoing commitment to improving the lives of children diagnosed with cancer, survivors, and their families. We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill to help ensure a brighter future for childhood cancer survivors. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Mizzi with the Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy at kmizzi@childrenscause.org.

Sincerely,

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