



June 18, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman, Committee on  
Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on  
Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Senator Shelby, Chairman Durbin, and Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the thousands of brain tumor patients, caregivers, survivors, and family members we serve throughout the United States, I write to urge you to maintain funding in Fiscal Year 2014 for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs and, in particular, for the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) and its pediatric brain tumor research program. The PRCRP is funded through the Department of Defense budget and received \$15 million last year.

Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer-related death in children under the age of 20. This year alone, 4,300 children in the United States will be diagnosed with a primary brain tumor.<sup>1</sup> Brain tumor patients in the U.S. face a five-year relative survival rate of just 34%.<sup>2</sup>

The PRCRP is an important program in the fight against pediatric brain tumors. It provides grants to researchers investigating ways to treat brain tumors in children in ways that reduce adverse effects to the developing brain. The brain tumor

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbtrus.org/factsheet/factsheet.html>

<sup>2</sup> Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, Neyman N, Aminou R, Altekruse SF, Kosary CL, Ruhl J, Tatalovich Z, Cho H, Mariotto A, Eisner MP, Lewis DR, Chen HS, Feuer EJ, Cronin KA (eds). SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009 (Vintage 2009 Populations), National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, [http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2009\\_pops09/](http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2009_pops09/), based on November 2011 SEER data submission, posted to the SEER website, April 2012.

community and military families affected by cancer need advances in scientific progress that the PRCRP provides.

Your continued investment in this program will mean more hope for better treatments for children living with a brain tumor today, and for those who will be diagnosed tomorrow.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Memmott', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Scott A. Memmott  
Chair, Public Policy Advisory Committee  
National Brain Tumor Society

