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Powerful Cancer Alliance of Physician & Patient Groups Calls for Improved Care for Survivors of Childhood Cancer

Alexandria, Va.—The Alliance for Childhood Cancer is rallying their membership of more than twenty national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations in support of new legislation introduced yesterday by Representative Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) and Representative Mary Bono (R-CA). The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Act would improve and enhance research and programs on cancer survivorship.

The legislation would establish:

- NIH cancer survivorship programs including grants to address health disparities in childhood cancer survivorship.
- Clinics for comprehensive long-term follow-up services for survivors of childhood cancer.
- Grants to improve access to care for survivors of childhood cancer.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cancer control programs aimed to provide guidance to states & encourage them to improve systems of care for survivors of childhood cancer.

“I commend Congresswomen Solis and Bono for introducing legislation that will improve the health of so many survivors of childhood cancer,” said Craig Lustig, Co-chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer. “With so many survivors experiencing late effects of their treatment, it is crucial that resources are made available to all childhood cancer survivors, especially those in minority or underserved communities.”

The population of survivors of childhood cancers has grown exponentially over the years. In 1960, only four percent of children with cancer survived more than five years compared to 270,000 survivors of childhood cancers as of 1997. Approximately two-thirds of these survivors experience a late effect of treatment; one-fourth are experiencing effects that are serious or life threatening.

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer is currently undertaking a number of activities to advance research and policies to improve the diagnosis, treatment, care, and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer, as well as enhance public awareness.

For more information about childhood cancer or The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Act, visit the Alliance for Childhood Cancer's website at www.childhoodcanceralliance.org.

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The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, representing more than 20 national cancer patient advocacy groups, professional medical societies and scientific organizations, was established in 2001 to advocate on behalf of the youngest victims of cancer. Its mission is: To provide a forum of national patient advocacy groups and medical and scientific organizations which meets regularly, shares ideas and concerns, and works collaboratively to advance research and policies to prevent cancer, and improve public education, and the diagnosis, treatment, supportive care and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer.