

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

April 23, 2008

Representative Joe Baca
United States House of Representatives
Independence and New Jersey Avenues, S.E.
Longworth House Office Building 1527
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Baca,

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, representing twenty national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations, is pleased to support “The Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship Research and Quality of Life Act of 2007” (H.R. 4450). We commend you for co-sponsoring legislation that would enhance research and programs for young cancer survivors that will lead to improved health for the growing number of survivors of childhood cancers.

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. As many as two-thirds of these survivors are experiencing late effects of treatment, and one-fourth experience effects that are serious or life threatening. With so many survivors experiencing these late effects, it is critical that resources are made available to all childhood cancer survivors, especially those in minority or underserved communities. The Alliance welcomes the legislation’s provisions to establish clinics for comprehensive long-term follow-up services for survivors, grants to improve access to care for survivors of childhood cancer, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cancer control programs aimed at providing guidance to states and encouraging them to improve systems of care for survivors of childhood cancer.

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer advocates efforts 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. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation to help childhood cancer survivors.

Sincerely,

Craig Lustig, MPA Edwin Forman, MD
Co-Chair Co-Chair

Alliance Members

Co-Chairs

Craig Lustig, MPA
The Children’s Cause for
Cancer Advocacy

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American Academy of
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American Cancer Society

American Pediatric
Surgical Association

American Psychological
Association

American Society for
Therapeutic
Radiology/Oncology

American Society of
Clinical Oncology

American Society of Pediatric
Hematology & Oncology

Association of Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Association of Pediatric
Oncology Social Workers

Cancer Research and
Prevention Foundation/ Hope
Street Kids

Candlelighters Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Chai Lifeline

Children’s Brain Tumor
Foundation

Children’s Oncology Group

CureSearch National Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Lance Armstrong Foundation

National Children’s Cancer
Society

National Coalition for
Cancer Survivorship

Patient Advocate Foundation

Pediatric Brain Tumor
Foundation

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Society of Pediatric Psychology

The Children’s Cause for
Cancer Advocacy

The Leukemia & Lymphoma
Society

The Wellness Community