

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

January 8, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Cannon House Office Building, Room: 235
1st and Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations, representing the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, urge action early in the 111th Congress to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). As representatives of more than 20 patient advocacy and medical and scientific organizations, we see the devastating effects of delayed or limited access to health care on children with cancer. No child in America should face obstacles to health care, and a revitalization of SCHIP is an essential element of a plan to provide all children quality health care.

Although important advances in treatment for childhood cancer have been made, many children are confronted by diagnoses for which treatment options are inadequate. Moreover, all children treated with cancer need follow-up care and monitoring after they finish active treatment. Good outcomes for children with cancer depend on prompt availability of outstanding health care.

We urge your leadership in making SCHIP reauthorization a top priority for the new Congress. This effort is of critical importance for all American children, including those facing cancer and cancer treatment.

Sincerely,

American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation
Hope Street Kids/Prevent Cancer Foundation
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
National Children's Cancer Society
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Pediatric Psychology
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Wellness Community

Alliance Members

Co-Chairs

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

Karen McKinley, PsyD, LCSW
Association of Pediatric
Oncology Social Workers

American Academy of
Pediatrics

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

Candlelighters Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Chai Lifeline

Children's Brain Tumor
Foundation

Children's Oncology Group

CureSearch National Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Hope Street Kids/Prevent
Cancer Foundation

Lance Armstrong Foundation

National Children's Cancer
Society

National Coalition for
Cancer Survivorship

National 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