

Dear [Representative/Senator],

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. Today, almost eighty percent of children with cancer survive more than five years. As many as two-thirds of these survivors are experiencing late effects from their cancer treatment, and one-fourth experience effects that are serious or life threatening. It is critical that resources are made available to these survivors, especially those in minority or underserved communities.

For all of these reasons, [Your organization] urges you to become a co-sponsor of “The Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship Research and Quality of Life Act of 2007” [H.R. 4450/S.2877]. This legislation is an important step in enhancing research and programs for young cancer survivors that will lead to improved health for the growing number of survivors of childhood cancers.

This legislation would address these concerns by:

- establishing clinics for comprehensive long-term follow-up services for survivors
- providing grants to improve access to care for survivors of childhood cancer
- developing 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.

These recommendations originated from the 2003 Institute of Medicine report, “Childhood Cancer Survivorship: Improving Care and Quality of Life” and subsequent IOM reports on cancer survivorship. These reports have outlined a number of recommendations to address childhood cancer survivors’ needs, including more research, long-term follow-up guidelines, provider education and awareness, and improved access to long-term care services.

[Closing sentence about your organization if desired] We hope you will become a co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation to help childhood cancer survivors. If you have any questions, please contact [enter contact information].