



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health & Human Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health & Human Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

The undersigned childhood cancer organizations, consisting of patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals and scientific organizations, represent millions of Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. As such, we appreciate your tremendous ongoing leadership in Congress to make childhood cancer a national child health priority.

As Congress considers the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask you to consider our funding priorities related to childhood cancer.

NIH and NCI Funding

For children with cancer, federally funded intramural and extramural research is the doorway to new, less toxic treatments. Due to the smaller patient populations, drug companies do not have as strong an incentive to invest in new childhood cancer research and development as they do for their adult counterparts. The status quo often favors existing childhood cancer treatments, despite their long-term health impacts. As a result, the onus is on the federal government to fill the gap. Research institutions around the country rely on grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to find discoveries, treatments, and cures. The critical and innovative intramural research being done on campus at NIH and NCI has saved countless lives and must continue to be fully funded and unimpeded in its mission to improve the lives of childhood cancer patients, survivors, and families. We join with the leading national cancer organizations in requesting \$51.3 billion in funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$7.99 billion in funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI). We also urge Congress to provide full funding of \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). **Further, we strongly oppose any changes to NIH or NCI that threaten their long history of stable, uninterrupted, and robust support. Children cannot afford to wait.**

Childhood Cancer Funding

Each year in the U.S. approximately 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. Approximately 1 in 263 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday. Annually there are more than 413,000 cases of childhood cancer worldwide. Unfortunately, cancer remains the most common cause of death by disease for children in America.

We have made significant advances to develop better treatments for the most common forms of childhood cancer. However, for many other types, progress is limited, and for too many children there is no available cure. By the age of 50, more than 99% of survivors have had a chronic health problem, and 96% have experienced a severe or life-threatening condition caused by the toxicity of the treatment that initially saved their life, including brain damage, loss of hearing and sight, heart disease, secondary cancers, learning disabilities, infertility and more. By the time a child in treatment for cancer today reaches the age of 50, we want these statistics to be far less grim.

Therefore, we ask for the following funding that is specific to Childhood Cancer in the FY27 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill:

- **Childhood Cancer STAR Act – \$35 million**, a \$5 million increase, matching the funding provided in the FY26 House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, including \$4 million in funding for childhood cancer surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to better identify and track incidences of child, adolescent, and young adult cancer in more states.
- **Childhood Cancer Data Initiative – \$100 million**, a \$50 million increase, matching the total funding level provided by Congress in FY26 and the Executive Order signed by President Trump on September 30th, 2025 doubling the program's budget.

Finally, we respectfully request that Congress once again include the following report language in the FY27 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill:

Department of Health and Human Services Report Language

Advancing Clinical Trials Through Subawards.—The Committee is concerned about the impact of the Administration's policy to prohibit scientists from directing any funding to international research partners and the impact on clinical trials and human subjects research. Pediatric cancer, rare disease, HIV and infectious disease research rely on clinical trial participants and biospecimens from foreign countries in order to aggregate enough samples or patients for robust research. The Committee directs NIH to allow reimbursements and other funding arrangements with research partners abroad to foster pediatric cancer, rare disease, HIV and infectious disease research.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support in the fight against childhood cancer. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rosalie Abbott,

Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at Rosalie.Abbott@stbaldricks.org, or Dr. Michael Link, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at mink@stanford.edu.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer

American Association for Cancer Research

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Childhood Cancer Organization

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

Blood Cancer United (Formerly The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Children's Cancer Cause

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation

MIB Agents Osteosarcoma

National Brain Tumor Society

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research

SIOP-North America

St. Baldrick's Foundation

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital