



May 6, 2025

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair McConnell and Ranking Member Coons:

The undersigned childhood cancer organizations are members of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, consisting of patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals and scientific organizations, representing Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. We write in support of continued funding of \$130 million for the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) and the continued inclusion of pediatric, adolescent and young adults (AYA) cancers, pediatric brain tumors, neuroblastoma, sarcomas, germ cell cancers, blood cancers, lymphoma, and thyroid cancer as eligible topics of funding under the program for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

Since 2009, the PRCRP has supported innovative research in cancers designated by Congress as relevant to those in military service and their families. Childhood cancer, the leading disease killer of children, adolescents and young adults in the United States, affects families without prejudice regardless of geographical location, occupation, or income and impacts military readiness of our service men and women.

Childhood and AYA cancers differ in biology and types from older adults and therefore require targeted research. Specifically, it is now known that pediatric brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer death in children ages 0–19. There are several different types of pediatric brain tumors that have survival rates below 10%. Similarly, the age-adjusted death rate for childhood leukemia, the most common form of cancer in children and AYA's younger than 20 years, has declined by over 75% since 1969. However, despite this decline, leukemia is still the second leading cause of cancer death among this cohort. Research funding through PRCRP is sorely needed to enhance understanding of these deadly tumors and cancers mentioned above so that treatments can be more effective and less toxic.

We firmly believe that continued funding in the FY26 PRCRP budget will result in marked progress in understanding the nature and treatment of childhood cancers. The lives of many children, adolescents and young adults depend on vigorous and innovative research programs like PRCRP to combat these diseases.



Thank you for your consideration of this request. 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](mailto:Rosalie.Abbott@stbaldricks.org), or Dr. Michael Link, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at [mlink@stanford.edu](mailto:mlink@stanford.edu).

Sincerely,

**The Alliance for Childhood Cancer**

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  
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation  
Children's Cancer Cause  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
MIB Agents Osteosarcoma  
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation  
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research  
St. Baldrick's Foundation