

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

Alliance Members

Co-Chairs

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

Edwin Forman, MD
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

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

Dear Rep/Sen XXX:

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, a coalition of more than 20 national cancer patient advocacy organizations, professional medical societies, and scientific organizations, would like to express our appreciation for your co-sponsorship of the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2007 (H.R. 1553/ S. 911). The mission of the Alliance is to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer, a goal we pursue through public policy initiatives.

As you know, there has been tremendous progress made in the treatment of children with cancer and almost 75 percent of children with cancer can be cured. Despite these advances, the treatments for some childhood cancers, including brain tumors and neuroblastoma, are inadequate. In addition, two-thirds of children who are successfully treated experience serious and long-term effects from treatment.

It is clear from current pediatric cancer therapies and the effects of those treatments that we need to strengthen our support for research leading to an enhanced understanding of childhood cancers and treatments that are less toxic and more effective. We appreciate your support for the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which addresses the need for an aggressive commitment to pediatric cancer research by:

- Encouraging and expanding support for the biomedical research programs of the existing National Cancer Institute—designated multi-center national infrastructure for pediatric cancer research;
- Establishing a population-based national childhood cancer database, called the Children's Cancer Research Network, to evaluate incidence trends of childhood cancers;
- Authorizing grants to organizations for expansion and implementation of activities raising public awareness of information, treatment and research for pediatric cancers;
- Supporting the development, construction and operation of a comprehensive on-line public information source on childhood cancers; and
- Establishing a fellowship program in pediatric cancer research.

We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives that are aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer.