

Childhood Cancer and Awareness Programs

Provide \$30 Million for HHS Childhood Cancer Program



The Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act was unanimously passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on July 29, 2008. This relatively new authorization enhances pediatric cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. It also establishes a public awareness and education program and a pediatric cancer registry at the Centers for Disease Control. The authorization provides for \$30 million annually over five years for these programs. Pediatric cancer research requires an increased and sustained level of funding, which could be provided through the authorized funding for the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act.

Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children between infancy and age 15. There are more than 12,000 new cases of childhood cancer annually in the U.S. Leukemias are the most common childhood cancers, followed by brain cancers and lymphomas. While the combined survival rates for children with cancer has increased to approximately 80 percent, many children still succumb to their cancer. Furthermore, those who do survive often sustain life-long negative effects.

Approximately 300,000 childhood cancer survivors are alive today, and as many as two thirds of them will face a late effect of their treatment. One fourth of the survivors will experience a life threatening late effect. Finally, the childhood cancer burden is increasing as incidence rates have been increasing over the last thirty years.

The members of One Voice Against Cancer respectfully request that Congress fully fund the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act by providing \$30 million in FY 2011 for this program. This funding would support the pediatric cancer programs at the following agencies:

- **Centers for Disease Control:** Funds would enhance and expand infrastructure to track and locate patients to participate in a study of the epidemiology of pediatric cancer through a nationwide registry of actual occurrences of pediatric cancer;
- **National Cancer Institute:** Funds will be used to enhance and expand pediatric cancer research, including therapeutically applicable research to generate effective treatments, providing additional resources and support to patients and their families through existing pediatric clinical trials administered through National Cancer Institute-supported pediatric cancer clinical trial groups and their member institutions;
- **Office of the Secretary of HHS:** Funds will be used to carry out informational services to patients and families affected by childhood cancer.