ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

Alliance Members

Co-Chairs
George Dahlman
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Karen McKinley, PsyD, LCSW
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Pediatric Surgical Association

American Psychological Association

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation

Cancer Support Community

Chai Lifeline

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Children's Oncology Group

CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation

Hope Street Kids

Lance Armstrong Foundation

National Children's Cancer Society

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Society of Pediatric Psychology

St. Baldrick's Foundation

The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown and Senator Hutchison,

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer is writing to thank you for introducing your clinical trials amendment, #2871 to H.R. 3590, and to lend its strong support for that amendment. The Alliance is a coalition of 26 national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations that collaborate on public policy matters supporting childhood cancer patients and survivors.

We applaud your effort to address gaps in insurance coverage for all cancer patients who have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials. Your amendment would require health plans and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan to pay for routine care costs associated with a clinical trial. This is important because clinical trials are critical in translating the latest advances in cancer research into improved patient treatments. Not only are clinical trials critical for developing treatments for future patients, they serve an important role to the patients who participate in them by providing access to cutting-edge treatments, which may represent the best hope of survival for those patients by.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to enhance access to quality cancer care for the children and young adults we represent. The Alliance looks forward to working with you to build support for the amendment.

Sincerely,

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
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The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The National Children's Cancer Society
Sarcoma Foundation of America

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