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,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
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
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