April 26, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Cannon House Office Building, Room: 235
1st and Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Hart Senate Office Building, Room: 522
2nd and C Streets, N.E.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Reid:

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, a coalition of 26 national patient advocacy groups, professional medical societies and scientific organizations that collaborate on public policy matters supporting childhood cancer patients and survivors, thanks you for your efforts on the recent enactment of health reform legislation. We are encouraged by the many reforms this legislation contains that address the needs of children with and surviving childhood cancer.

While mortality rates in childhood cancer have declined 50% since 1975, cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease in children up to age 14. This marked progress in survival rates is attributable to improved treatments and the high participation rate of pediatric patients in clinical trials.

We believe a number of reforms in this legislation will be crucial to the continued improvement in these survival rates, including allowing children to stay on their parents’ insurance until they are 26, improving access to clinical trials, eliminating lifetime caps and rescissions, and eliminating pre-existing conditions exclusions of insurance coverage.

Thank you for addressing these important issues confronted by children with cancer and their families. We look forward to working with policymakers to implement these provisions and to continue working to address the concerns of pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American Psychological Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
The Cancer Support Community
Chai Lifeline
Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation
Children’s Oncology Group
CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation
Hope Street Kids/Prevent Cancer Foundation
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