

June xx, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &  
Human Services and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &  
Human Services and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The below signed childhood cancer organizations are writing to urge you to provide \$30 million to fund the childhood cancer programs established by the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access and Research (STAR) Act, which was signed into law on June 5, 2018.

The STAR Act enjoys broad bipartisan support in Congress. In the House, it had 371 cosponsors and in the Senate, 55 Senators signed on to support this bill. The STAR Act was approved unanimously in both the House and Senate earlier this year.

You have both been great champions in the fight against childhood cancer and we are grateful that you both cosponsored the STAR Act. As you know, more children are lost to cancer in the U.S. than any other disease. Before they turn 20, about 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will have cancer. Many adult cancers can be diagnosed early. However, in 80% of kids, cancer has already spread to other areas of the body by the time it is diagnosed.

But even for kids who survive, the battle is not over. A recent study shows that because of the treatments they had as kids, by the time they're 45, more than 95% of survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80% will have severe or life-threatening conditions.

The Childhood Cancer STAR Act authorizes several key programs, including biorepositories to be funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the goal of raising overall survivorship rates, while focusing on some of the least-studied and understood childhood cancers. The STAR Act, if funded, will also enable the development of best practices for the treatment of late effects of childhood cancers, to improve collaboration among providers so that doctors are better able to care for this population as they age, and to create innovative models of care for childhood cancer survivors.

We are very grateful for your support of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act and we hope you will provide the necessary funding for the coming fiscal year to ensure that these vital programs can be implemented to help children and the clinicians, researchers and parents who care for them, fight cancer.

Sincerely,