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October 20, 2018

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
2112 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
2231 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Reps. Bilirakis and Luján:

The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy, established in 1999, was founded to ensure the needs and perspectives of children with cancer and survivors are integrated into federal health care, research and cancer policy.

We are writing to express our support for the Clinical Treatment Act (HR 6836) to require states to cover the routine costs of participation in an approved clinical trial for Medicaid enrollees. Medicare and private and commercial payers already guarantee this coverage. Medicare has paid for these services for over a decade through a National Coverage Decision. Private payers are required to provide coverage under statute.

Medicaid is the only major payer that is not required to provide this coverage as they do not require state programs to provide coverage for the routine costs of clinical trials participation. However, Medicaid insures nearly one-fifth of the U.S. population, and the absence of a federal requirement limits pediatric patient access to cancer treatments that are often the best clinical option.

Medicaid is a primary source of coverage for many children with cancer. Failure to address the coverage barrier that Medicaid pediatric patients face imposes access, clinical and financial burdens that could affect overall care. We applaud your efforts to resolve this issue.

We look forward to working with you on this important childhood cancer endeavor.

Sincerely,



George Dahlman
CEO, Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

