

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we write to thank you for providing full funding for the childhood cancer programs established in the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act in FY2019, and we ask that you continue to provide funding for these programs at \$30 million in FY2020.

While some progress has been made in pediatric cancer research – leading to a decline in childhood cancer deaths by almost 70 percent over the last four decades – cancer is still the leading cause of death by disease past infancy among children in the United States, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). And while survival rates for some forms of childhood cancer like leukemia have increased to greater than 85 percent, the median survival rate for other childhood cancers such as diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma is less than one year.

With the goal of raising overall survivorship rates, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act authorized key research initiatives, such as biorepositories at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while focusing on some of the least-studied and understood childhood cancers.

Further, childhood cancer survivors continue to face significant health issues requiring specialized follow-up care for the rest of their lives. As many as two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors will develop a serious or life threatening condition, such as secondary cancers and organ damage. As a result, childhood cancer survivors often need advanced follow-up care long after battling cancer and we need to ensure that health care professionals are equipped to provide that care into adolescence and adulthood.

As such, we ask that you also fully fund the Childhood Cancer STAR Act provisions to develop 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 greatly appreciate your support for funding in FY2019 to implement the Childhood Cancer STAR Act and look forward to working with you to ensure that these efforts continue in FY2020.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

C. M.

Ann Van Vliet

August King

Dianne Peterson

Maggie Haran

Kyrsten Sin

Jeffrey A. Muelken

Paul Manchunas

Jon Tustin

Shirley

Harold Brown

Debbie Stanger

J. B.

Ther Smith Amy Klobuchar

Edward J. Markey Sen. J. D. Schuster

Deanne Shalton Tammy Duckworth

Richard Blumenthal Dan Claitor

Jerry Berman Catherine Cortez Masto

Ben Cardin Jon Corzine

Chris Coons Mitt F. Romney

Kirsten Gillibrand

Bob Carey, Jr.

NY

Lang C. Carter

Tom Carper

Tim L.

Robert Menendez

FY20 Childhood Cancer STAR Act funding

Read each pair from the top of the letter from left to right

Reed
Van Hollen

Murphy
King

Feinstein
Hassan

Sinema
Merkley

Manchin
Tester

Whitehouse
Brown

Stabenow
Booker

Smith
Klobuchar

Markey
Harris

Shaheen
Duckworth

Blumenthal
Durbin

Baldwin
Cortez Masto

Sanders
Rosen

Coons
Bennet

Gillibrand
Casey

Jones
Peters

Carper
Kaine

Menendez