

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

Alliance Members

Co-Chairs

Craig Lustig, MPA
The Children's Cause for
Cancer Advocacy

Edwin Forman, MD
American Academy of
Pediatrics

American Cancer Society

American Pediatric
Surgical Association

American Psychological
Association

American Society for
Therapeutic
Radiology/Oncology

American Society of
Clinical Oncology

American Society of Pediatric
Hematology & Oncology

Association of Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Association of Pediatric
Oncology Social Workers

Cancer Research and
Prevention Foundation/ Hope
Street Kids

Candlelighters Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Chai Lifeline

Children's Brain Tumor
Foundation

Children's Oncology Group

CureSearch National Childhood
Cancer Foundation

Lance Armstrong Foundation

National Children's Cancer
Society

National Coalition for
Cancer Survivorship

Patient Advocate Foundation

Pediatric Brain Tumor
Foundation

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Society of Pediatric Psychology

The Children's Cause for
Cancer Advocacy

The Leukemia & Lymphoma
Society

The Wellness Community

October 17, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, we urge you to vote to override the veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill. The Alliance is a coalition of more than twenty-five national organizations representing patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations. Patient advocates, many of whom are either cancer survivors themselves or are parents of children with cancer, are joined by oncology professionals and others representing the multidisciplinary spectrum of cancer care in a unique alliance that brings concerned parties together to advance the interests of children with cancer.

The SCHIP bill passed by the Congress is a strong bipartisan compromise that would expand health insurance coverage to millions of children who either have no other options or are uninsured. The pediatric cancer community believes that such insurance coverage is critically important to the population that would be served by this legislation. There is plenty of evidence that for pediatric cancers – as with adult cancers -- early access to diagnosis and treatment is key to improving survival. There is also evidence demonstrating that children who are economically disadvantaged and less likely to have health insurance, typically are diagnosed at more advanced stages of their disease due to delayed access to care.

We strongly urge you to vote to override the veto to allow more children access to health insurance.

Sincerely,

Craig Lustig, MPA Co-Chair
Edwin Forman, MD Co-Chair

American Psychological Association
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology/Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
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The Wellness Community