



CAC2

COALITION AGAINST
CHILDHOOD CANCER

PO Box 41913
Philadelphia, PA 19101

cac2.org

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August 12, 2022

Senator Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine, Senator Cassidy, Senator Warner, and Senator Moran:

The undersigned childhood cancer organizations are members of the Coalition Against Childhood Cancer (CAC2), consisting of childhood cancer organizations and individual advocates, representing millions of Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. We are writing to urge the Senate to adopt the House passed language of House Bill 623 and pass the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act 2.0. Thank you for your leadership in the fight against childhood cancer.

Childhood Cancer is the #1 disease related killer of kids and teenagers in the U.S. One in five children diagnosed with cancer will die within five years of diagnosis, and, on average their age at death is eight--a full 70 years of expected life lost. One in 285 American children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. That means that in 2022, 10,470 children (birth to 14 years) and 5,480 adolescents (aged 15-19 years) will receive cancer diagnoses. More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have significant health-related issues by the time they are 45 years of age. These health-related issues are side-effects of their cancer or, more commonly, the result of their treatment regimen.

Expanded research in the pediatric cancer space is essential for the complex medical needs of children and adolescents fighting cancer and their families. Your willingness to act provides us with hope for the future. The Gabriella Miller Kids First Act 2.0 will build upon the initial successes of the original Gabriella Miller Kids First Act, enacted in 2014. This law has invested \$75 million in childhood cancer research and is expected to fund another \$50 million before it sunsets in 2023. The reauthorized legislation will continue and expand the Kids First Program to develop a more robust comprehensive shared-data resource for scientists



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researching hundreds of different pediatric cancers and structural birth defects. It also supports the development of computational tools to analyze these large, complex genomic and clinical data sets. The Kids First Program holds promise to facilitate more refined diagnostic capabilities and ultimately more targeted therapies or interventions.

The Gabriella Miller Kids First Act 2.0 authorizes continued resources to improve treatment of childhood cancer by advancing the research that brings us closer to finding a cure. We look forward to working with your offices to ensure swift passage of the Act to deliver help to individuals and families across the country impacted by childhood cancer. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Vickie Buenger, CAC2 President Emeritus at president@cac2.org.

Sincerely,

The Coalition Against Childhood Cancer

