

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We write today to request a status update on the implementation of Section 203 of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act [P.L. 115-180].

The Childhood Cancer STAR Act is helping to expand opportunities for childhood cancer research, improve efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, and enhance the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors. As the authors of this important law, we are committed to ensuring that it is fully implemented, and we are pleased that your Department has already taken steps to implement a number of provisions of the law.

Fortunately, advances in cancer treatment have resulted in a significant improvement in the childhood cancer survival rate. In fact, according to the National Cancer Institute, 84 percent of children diagnosed with cancer are alive at least five years after their diagnosis. However, even after beating cancer, as many as two-thirds of survivors suffer from late effects of their disease or treatment, including secondary cancers and organ damage. Research clearly demonstrates the critical need for childhood cancer survivors to receive regular follow-up care by health care professionals trained to identify and treat late effects, which can be aided by Survivorship Care Plans.

An important goal of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act is to improve the quality of care that childhood cancer survivors receive later in life. To this end, Section 203 of the law allows the Secretary to facilitate the identification of best practices for childhood and adolescent cancer survivorship care through consultation with individuals who have expertise in the late effects of disease and treatment of childhood and adolescent cancers.

In order to better understand the status of implementation of this section of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, we request that you provide information on development of best practices for survivorship care in this section as well as a timeline for doing so. Additionally, we request an update on the steps HHS has taken to implement Section 203 of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act.

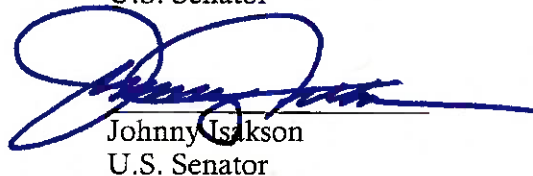
Thank you in advance for your attention this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to fully implement this important law.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Reed  
U.S. Senator

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senator

  
Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. Senator

  
Johnny Isakson  
U.S. Senator

  
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress