February 3, 2022

The Honorable Joni Ernst      The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate                    U.S. Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building 218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510          Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Joyce      The Honorable Kim Schrier
U.S. House Of Representatives U.S. House Of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building 1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515          Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Ernst, Senator Coons, Representative Joyce, and Representative Schrier:

The undersigned childhood cancer organizations are members of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, consisting of patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals, and scientific organizations representing Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. We are writing to offer our endorsement of H.R. 3773/S. 1357, the Pediatricians Accelerate Childhood Therapies Act (PACT Act) and we thank you for your support of federally funded pediatric biomedical research.

Each year in the United States approximately 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. Approximately 1 in 264 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday. Annually there are more than 300,000 children diagnosed with cancer worldwide. Unfortunately, cancer remains the most common cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Though we have made significant advances to develop better treatments for some childhood cancers, children with cancer rely on continued investments to conduct vital research to find treatments and cures.

Advancements in treatment and cures for children with cancer are not possible without sustained availability of federal research awards and consistent investments in the research workforce. Investing in the development of the next generation of pediatric researchers will lead to new ideas, new treatments, and new cures. The PACT Act recognizes the challenges associated with attracting and retaining early-career researchers, including physician-scientists, to careers in pediatric research.

The PACT Act addresses these issues by creating a new Trans-NIH career development award focused on early-career pediatric researchers. This bipartisan legislation would also authorize a process to better coordinate and manage the pediatric research portfolio at the National Institutes
of Health (NIH), including prioritizing research topic areas and working to align these efforts with the important research currently underway at NIH, including critical childhood cancer research. The PACT Act would build a strong pediatric physician research workforce for the future while also better coordinating pediatric research across NIH, which will improve care and treatment for children with cancer and childhood cancer survivors.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of children with cancer. We look forward to working with you to enact the PACT Act. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sarah Milberg, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at smilberg@allianceforchildhoodcancer.org, or Dr. Michael Link, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at mlink@stanford.edu.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cancer Cause
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Sarcoma Foundation of America
St. Baldrick's Foundation
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital