



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair McConnell and Ranking Member Coons:

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 write in support of \$180 million in funding for the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) and the continued inclusion of pediatric, adolescent and young adults (AYA) cancers, pediatric brain tumors, neuroblastoma, sarcomas, germ cell cancers, blood cancers, lymphoma, and thyroid cancer as eligible topics of funding under the program for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

Since 2009, the PRCRP has supported innovative research in cancers designated by Congress as relevant to those in military service and their families. Childhood cancer, the leading disease killer of children, adolescents and young adults in the United States, affects families without prejudice regardless of geographical location, occupation, or income and impacts military readiness of our service men and women.

Childhood and AYA cancers differ in biology and types from older adults and therefore require targeted research. Specifically, it is now known that pediatric brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer death in children ages 0–19. There are several different types of pediatric brain tumors that have survival rates below 10%. Similarly, the age-adjusted death rate for childhood leukemia, the most common form of cancer in children and AYA's younger than 20 years, has declined by over 75% since 1969. However, despite this decline, leukemia is still the second leading cause of cancer death among this cohort. Research funding through PRCRP is sorely needed to enhance understanding of these deadly tumors and cancers mentioned above so that treatments can be more effective and less toxic.

We firmly believe that continued funding in the FY27 PRCRP budget will result in marked progress in understanding the nature and treatment of childhood cancers. The lives of many children, adolescents and young adults depend on vigorous and innovative research programs like PRCRP to combat these diseases.



Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rosalie Abbott, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at Rosalie.Abbott@stbaldricks.org, or Dr. Michael Link, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at mlink@stanford.edu.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer

American Association for Cancer Research

American Childhood Cancer Organization

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation

Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

Blood Cancer United (Formerly The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Children's Cancer Cause

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation

MIB Agents Osteosarcoma

National Brain Tumor Society

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research

SIOP-North America

St. Baldrick's Foundation