

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 911

To amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2007

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Conquer Childhood
3 Cancer Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Cancer kills more children than any other
7 disease.

8 (2) Each year cancer kills more children be-
9 tween 1 and 20 years of age than asthma, diabetes,
10 cystic fibrosis, and AIDS, combined.

11 (3) Every year, over 12,500 young people are
12 diagnosed with cancer.

13 (4) Each year about 2,300 children and teen-
14 agers die from cancer.

15 (5) One in every 330 Americans develops cancer
16 before age 20.

17 (6) Some forms of childhood cancer have proven
18 to be so resistant that even in spite of the great re-
19 search strides made, most of those children die. Up
20 to 75 percent of the children with cancer can now
21 be cured.

22 (7) The causes of most childhood cancers are
23 not yet known.

24 (8) Childhood cancers are mostly those of the
25 white blood cells (leukemias), brain, bone, the lym-
26 phatic system, and tumors of the muscles, kidneys,

1 and nervous system. Each of these behaves dif-
2 ferently, but all are characterized by an uncontrolled
3 proliferation of abnormal cells.

4 (9) Eighty percent of the children who are diag-
5 nosed with cancer have disease which has already
6 spread to distant sites in the body.

7 (10) Ninety percent of children with a form of
8 pediatric cancer are treated at one of the more than
9 200 Children's Oncology Group member institutions
10 throughout the United States.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

12 It is the purpose of this Act to authorize appropria-
13 tions to—

14 (1) encourage and expand the support for bio-
15 medical research programs of the existing National
16 Cancer Institute-designated multicenter national in-
17 frastructure for pediatric cancer research;

18 (2) establish a population-based national child-
19 hood cancer database (the Children's Cancer Re-
20 search Network) to evaluate incidence trends of
21 childhood cancers and to enable the investigations of
22 genetic epidemiology in order to identify causes to
23 aid in development of prevention strategies;

24 (3) provide informational services to patients
25 and families affected by childhood cancer;

1 (4) support the development, construction, and
2 operation of a comprehensive online public informa-
3 tion system on childhood cancers and services avail-
4 able to families; and

5 (5) establish a fellowship program in pediatric
6 cancer research to foster clinical and translational
7 research career development in pediatric oncologists
8 in the early stages of their career.

9 **SEC. 4. PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH AND AWARENESS.**

10 Subpart 1 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
11 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285 et seq.) is amended by adding
12 at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 417E. PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH AND AWARE-**
14 **NESS.**

15 **“(a) PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH.—**

16 **“(1) SPECIAL PROGRAMS OF RESEARCH EXCEL-**
17 **LENCE IN PEDIATRIC CANCERS.—**The Director of
18 NIH, acting through the National Cancer Institute,
19 shall establish special programs of research excel-
20 lence in the area of pediatric cancers. Such pro-
21 grams shall demonstrate a balanced approach to re-
22 search cause, prognosis, prevention, diagnosis, and
23 treatment of pediatric cancers that foster translation
24 of basic research findings into innovative interven-
25 tions applied to patients.

1 “(2) FELLOWSHIP OF EXCELLENCE IN PEDI-
2 ATRIC CANCER RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall de-
3 velop a grant mechanism for the establishment, in
4 cooperation with the National Cancer Institute-sup-
5 ported pediatric cancer clinical trial groups, of Re-
6 search Fellowships in Pediatric Cancer to support
7 adequate numbers of pediatric focused clinical and
8 translational investigators thereby facilitating con-
9 tinuous momentum of research excellence.

10 “(b) NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER REGISTRY.—
11 The Director of NIH shall award a grant for the operation
12 of a population-based national childhood cancer database,
13 the Childhood Cancer Research Network (CCRN), of the
14 Children’s Oncology Group, in cooperation with the Na-
15 tional Cancer Institute.

16 “(c) PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PEDIATRIC CANCERS
17 AND AVAILABLE TREATMENTS AND RESEARCH.—The
18 Secretary shall award grants to recognized childhood can-
19 cer professional and advocacy organizations for the expan-
20 sion and widespread implementation of activities to raise
21 public awareness of currently available information, treat-
22 ment, and research with the intent to ensure access to best
23 available therapies for pediatric cancers.

24 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

- 1 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.
- 2 Funds appropriated under this section shall remain avail-
- 3 able until expended.”.

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