



July 7, 2021

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

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

Senator Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
703 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 Alliance for Childhood Cancer, consisting of patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals and scientific organizations, representing millions of Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. We are writing to offer our endorsement of S. 1521, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0. Thank you for your leadership in the fight against childhood cancer.

More children are lost to cancer in the U.S. than any other disease. Before the age of 20, nearly 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will have cancer and approximately 16,000 children receive a cancer diagnosis each year. While recent decades produced dozens of new adult cancer therapies, there are very few cancer treatments that are specifically indicated for pediatric cancer. Further, survivors of childhood cancer often suffer long term health consequences due to the side effects of the treatment regimens available today.

Despite initial progress, research in the pediatric cancer space has yet to meet the complex medical needs of children and their families, which is why we are heartened by your willingness to take action. 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, which has invested \$75 million in childhood cancer research and is expected to fund another \$50 million before it sunsets in 2023. The updated legislation will expand the Kids First Program, which supports collaborative research to uncover the genetic etiology of childhood cancer and structural birth defects. 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 Sarah Milberg, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at [smilberg@allianceforchildhoodcancer.org](mailto:smilberg@allianceforchildhoodcancer.org).

Sincerely,

**The Alliance for Childhood Cancer**

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

Children's Cancer Research Fund

Children's Oncology Group

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation

National Brain Tumor Society

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research

Sarcoma Foundation of America

St. Baldrick's Foundation