

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which supports critical research to prevent and treat diseases, including pediatric cancer.

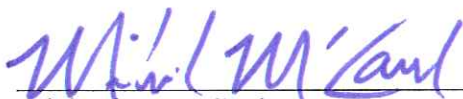
Pediatric cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death for children in the United States. Every year, 15,800 children and adolescents in the United States are diagnosed with cancer and 2,000 are lost to these diseases. While survival rates for some cancers are now over 80 percent, the rates for rare cancers remain extremely low. There has been little incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to invest in research and development of pediatric oncologic drugs and only two have been approved since the 1980's. Moreover, two out of three survivors experience long-term physical and mental effects from their diseases and treatments.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the NIH plays a vital role by supporting most pediatric cancer research in the United States. NCI research ranges from basic science, to preclinical testing and clinical trials, survivorship research, and epidemiological studies. The NCI supports trials at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, NCI-designated cancer centers, and additional hospitals and treatment centers that serve as trial sites through the Children's Oncology Group.

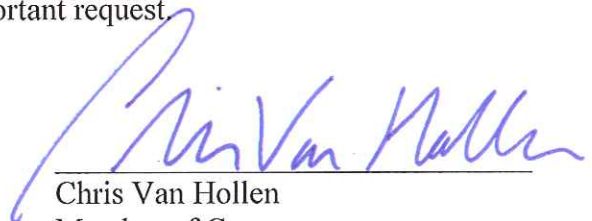
Approximately 4,000 children enter one of approximately 100 ongoing clinical trials sponsored by the NCI every year. The percentage of children with cancer participating in clinical trials is much higher than that observed for adults with cancer, with the overall percentage in the 30% to 40% range with substantial variation in participation rates by age and cancer diagnosis.

We believe increasing our investment in the NIH in FY 2015 will make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of Americans, including children with cancer, survivors, and their families. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

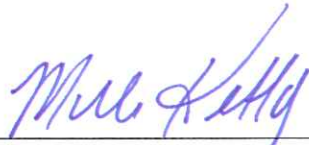
Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



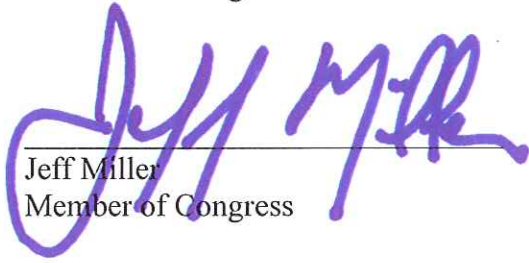
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



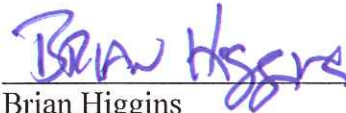
Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



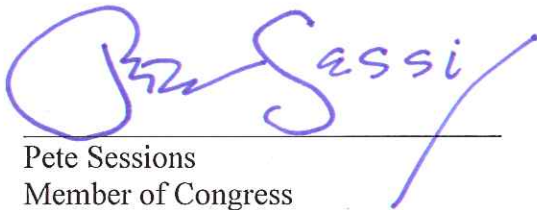
John C. Carney
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress