

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2375

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 7, 2006

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Conquer Childhood
5 Cancer Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Cancer kills more children than any other
4 disease.

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

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

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

12 (5) One in every 330 Americans develops cancer
13 before age 20.

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

19 (7) The causes of most childhood cancers are
20 not yet known.

21 (8) Childhood cancers are mostly those of the
22 white blood cells (leukemias), brain, bone, the lym-
23 phatic system, and tumors of the muscles, kidneys,
24 and nervous system. Each of these behaves dif-
25 ferently, but all are characterized by an uncontrolled
26 proliferation of abnormal cells.

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

4 (10) Ninety percent of children with a form of
5 pediatric cancer are treated at one of the more than
6 200 Children's Oncology Group member institutions
7 throughout the United States.

8 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

9 It is the purpose of this Act to authorize appropria-
10 tions to—

11 (1) encourage and expand the support for bio-
12 medical research programs of the existing National
13 Cancer Institute-designated multi-center national in-
14 frastructure for pediatric cancer research;

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

21 (3) provide informational services to patients
22 and families affected by childhood cancer;

23 (4) support the development, construction and
24 operation of a comprehensive online public informa-

1 tion system on childhood cancers and services avail-
 2 able to families; and

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

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

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

11 **“SEC. 417E. PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH AND AWARE-**
 12 **NESS.**

13 “(a) PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH.—

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

24 “(2) FELLOWSHIP OF EXCELLENCE IN PEDI-
 25 ATRIC CANCER RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall de-

1 velop a grant mechanism for the establishment, in
2 cooperation with the National Cancer Institute-sup-
3 ported pediatric cancer clinical trial groups, of Re-
4 search Fellowships in Pediatric Cancer to support
5 adequate numbers of pediatric focused clinical and
6 translational investigators thereby facilitating con-
7 tinuous momentum of research excellence.

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

14 “(c) PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PEDIATRIC CANCERS
15 AND AVAILABLE TREATMENTS AND RESEARCH.—The
16 Secretary shall award a grants to recognized childhood
17 cancer professional and advocacy organizations for the ex-
18 pansion and widespread implementation of activities to
19 raise public awareness of currently available information,
20 treatment, and research with the intent to ensure access
21 to best available therapies for pediatric cancers.

22 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
24 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

- 1 Funds appropriated under this section shall remain avail-
- 2 able until expended.”.

