



Dear Member of Congress,

As you are preparing to make decisions about 2020 funding for the National Institute of Health (NIH) please consider a few things.

- Childhood cancer is the #1 disease related killer of kids in the U.S.
- The incidence of childhood cancer has been steadily rising over the past several decades
- Currently 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer before they reach the age of 20
- 20% of children diagnosed are terminal on diagnosis
- 60% of children diagnosed suffer life altering impacts of treatment
- 95% of survivors will suffer serious health impacts before they reach the age of 45

Despite these facts, thousands of children are suffering and dying each year. The NIH only allots 4% of cancer research funding to childhood cancer- standing by their position by using a 90% cure rate statistic for one childhood cancer to distort the entire childhood cancer picture. Ironically, this statistic is related to a childhood cancer that has been the recipient of the majority of childhood cancer research since the 1960s. The picture is not the same for other childhood cancers where there has been little to no investment, these childhood cancers continue to kill our children.

The NIH may continue to defend their position in spite of devastating impacts to kids and families, and society as a whole. Statistics can be twisted and turned to assist the defense, but there is no doubt that the incidence of childhood cancer is increasing. We need significant investment of Federal research dollars into childhood cancer research now – the kids are waiting. Members of Congress we ask you to stand up for children and make childhood cancer research a legislative priority in the NIH budget.

Sincerely,
