



## **The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Act**

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, representing twenty national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations, is pleased to support “The Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship Research and Quality of Life Act of 2007.”

The bill, known as the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Act, would lead to improved health for the growing number of survivors of childhood cancers by improving and expanding the delivery of medical and psychosocial care to survivors of childhood cancer.

Specifically, the legislation would establish:

- NIH cancer survivorship programs, including grants to address health disparities in childhood cancer survivorship.
- Clinics for comprehensive long-term follow-up services for survivors of childhood cancer.
- Grants to improve access to care for survivors of childhood cancer.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cancer control programs aimed to provide guidance to states and encourage them to improve systems of care for survivors of childhood cancer.

The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Act was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) and Representative Mary Bono (R-CA) on December 11, 2007. On April 17, Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) introduced S. 2877, the companion legislation to H.R.4450.

The population of survivors of childhood cancers has grown exponentially over the years. In 1960, only four percent of children with cancer survived more than five years. Today, almost eighty percent of children with cancer survive more than five years. Currently there are approximately 300,000 survivors of childhood cancers. Despite successes in treating many childhood cancers, as many as two-thirds of these survivors are experiencing late effects of treatment, and one-fourth experience effects that are serious or life threatening. With so many survivors experiencing these late effects, it is critical that resources are made available to all childhood cancer survivors, especially those in minority or underserved communities. The Alliance welcomes the legislation’s provisions to establish clinics for comprehensive long-term follow-up services for survivors, grants to improve access to care for survivors of childhood cancer, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cancer control programs aimed at providing guidance to states and encouraging them to improve systems of care for survivors of childhood cancer.

The Alliance thanks Representatives Solis and Bono and Senator Clinton for their commitment to improving the quality of life of childhood cancer survivors.