



## **Bipartisan Fairness to Kids with Cancer Act**

*Introduced by Reps. Susie Lee (D-NV), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Dwight Evans (D-PA), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and Mike Kelly (R-PA)*

### **The need:**

- The underfunding of pediatric cancer research remains a major issue, with only 4% of government funding allocated for cancer research directed towards childhood cancer.<sup>i</sup>
  - This allocation of research funds neglects the approximately 700,000<sup>ii</sup> Nevadans under the age of 18, 21.7%<sup>iii</sup> of the state's population.
  - The underinvestment in pediatric cancer research remains a serious oversight, especially when in 2023 more than 15,000 children and adolescents in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 1,500 will die from the disease.<sup>iv</sup>
- Cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death among children and adolescents, and yet child-appropriate cancer treatments have lagged in their development.<sup>v</sup>
  - Due to the toxicity of existing treatments, 2 out of every 3 survivors will develop at least one chronic health condition, including musculoskeletal problems and second cancers.<sup>vi</sup>
- In Nevada, there are not enough facilities dedicated to researching and treating pediatric cancer—including just two Children's Oncology Group (COG) locations, one in Las Vegas and one in Reno.
  - The underfunding of federal pediatric cancer research has limited the reach of organizations like the Children's Oncology Group – a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials group that cares for more than 90% of children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. each year.<sup>vii</sup>
  - This allocation of cancer funding research has also meant that on average clinical trials for children begin 6.5 years after adult trials,<sup>viii</sup> delaying potentially lifesaving treatment options for children.
- The underinvestment in pediatric cancer research and treatment has meant that Nevadan children often must wait or travel several hours for treatment or out of state to participate in potentially lifesaving clinical trials.<sup>ix</sup>

### **What this bill does:**

- The *Fairness to Kids with Cancer Act* would require the share of federal funds allocated to pediatric cancer research to equal the percentage of the U.S. population that is under the age of 18.

- Currently, 22.1%<sup>x</sup> of the population is under the age of 18, but only 4% government funding allocated for cancer research is directed towards treating childhood cancer.<sup>xi</sup>
- This bill would correct this underinvestment in supporting pediatric cancer patients and provide much-needed resources to support pediatric cancer research – ensuring that our children are receiving the best care possible, no matter where they live.

## Endorsements:

- Storm the Heavens Fund

**For more information, or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact:** Aneil Gill, [aneil.gill@mail.house.gov](mailto:aneil.gill@mail.house.gov), in Congresswoman Susie Lee's office, or Jacqueline Collie, [jacqueline.collie@mail.house.gov](mailto:jacqueline.collie@mail.house.gov), in Congressman Fitzpatrick's office.

<sup>i</sup> <https://nationalpcf.org/facts-about-childhood-cancer/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/nevada.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NV#>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.fightcancer.org/what-we-do/childhood-cancer-research>

<sup>v</sup> [https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/2023\\_childhood\\_cancer\\_factsheet\\_0.pdf](https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/2023_childhood_cancer_factsheet_0.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://nationalpcf.org/facts-about-childhood-cancer/>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://childrensoncologygroup.org/aboutus>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://nationalpcf.org/facts-about-childhood-cancer/>

<sup>ix</sup> [https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/publications/cancer/ccc/nevada\\_ccc\\_plan-508.pdf](https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/publications/cancer/ccc/nevada_ccc_plan-508.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/united-states-adult-population-grew-faster-than-nations-total-population-from-2010-to-2020.html#:~:text=By%20comparison%2C%20the%20younger%20population,from%2074.2%20million%20in%202010>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://nationalpcf.org/facts-about-childhood-cancer/>