

Funding and Appropriations for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act



In May 2018, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act was signed into law. This legislation will advance pediatric cancer research, increase transparency and expertise for pediatric cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and expand research into the long-term side effects due to childhood cancer and its treatments.

Although, Congress just passed the legislation this year, the Senate has already illustrated its commitment to implement the programs in the STAR Act with language and funding included in the FY 2019 appropriations bill so that the NIH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can begin their work.

Improving Surveillance for Pediatric Cancer: The STAR Act authorizes grants to state cancer registries to track incidences of cancer in children, adolescents, and young adults. The grants will be used to expand early reporting of childhood cancer, improve electronic reporting and infrastructure, and track the late effects of childhood cancer. In the FY2019 Labor/HHS appropriations bill, the Senate included a \$2 million increase to the CDC for state cancer registries to begin implementation of the STAR Act.



Pediatric Cancer and Survivorship Research: The STAR Act expands efforts to collect biospecimens and clinical and demographic information for childhood cancer patients in National Cancer Institute (NCI) clinical trials to better understand the cause of pediatric cancer and the effects of treatments. Additionally, this law expands research on the late effects, including medical and psychosocial, for pediatric cancer survivors and creates pilot programs to evaluate models of care for survivors.

The Senate included language in their FY19 appropriations bill calling on NIH to begin its work on clinical and survivorship research, as outlined in the STAR Act.

Additionally, the Senate included strong language identifying pediatric cancer as a leading cause of death among children and expressing support for further federal research to make progress against pediatric cancer.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Thank Members of the Senate for including so many STAR Act related priorities in their bill.
Ask Members of Congress to work to ensure that the Senate language becomes law.