The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports laws and policies that increase funding for cancer research, improve the quality of life for children and their families as they face cancer, and broaden access to quality health care.

Childhood Cancer Facts:

- Cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death among children ages 1-19, and more than 10,000 children will be diagnosed with cancer in 2017.
- A majority of childhood cancer survivors experience serious side effects or late effects as a result of currently available cancer-fighting treatments. This can cause significant and potentially life-threatening chronic conditions that can last a lifetime among the nearly 380,000 survivors of childhood cancer and their families living in the US today.
- Additional scientific discovery is essential to drive advances against the childhood cancers that have seen little or no progress and remain deadly, and to deliver more effective and less toxic cancer treatments to improve quality of life so these children and adolescents can both survive AND thrive.

Childhood Cancer Advocacy Initiatives
ACS CAN is actively working with the Alliance for Childhood Cancer and the Patient Quality of Life Coalition to advance key public policy proposals benefiting children and families:

Bill Summary: The Childhood Cancer STAR Act of 2017

- **Childhood Cancer Research:** The majority of pediatric cancer research is conducted by the federal government, meaning federal funding is vitally important for further medical advances. This legislation reauthorizes the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which expands efforts to collect biospecimens and clinical and demographic information for childhood cancer patients in clinical trials in order to understand the cause of pediatric cancers and the effects of treatments.
- **Childhood Cancer Surveillance:** The Childhood Cancer STAR Act will authorize grants to state cancer registries to track incidences of cancer in children, adolescents, and young adults. Funding for these registries would be used to expand early reporting of pediatric cancer, improve electronic reporting and infrastructure, submitting data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s national childhood cancer database, and tracking the late effects of childhood cancers.
- **Pediatric Expertise and Transparency at the NIH:** This provision would require that at least one pediatric oncologist be included on the National Cancer Advisory Board and would enhance the reporting requirements for childhood cancer research at the NIH.
- **Quality of Life for Childhood Cancer Survivors:** Over 60 percent of childhood cancer survivors go on to experience a chronic health condition. This bill expands research on the late effects of childhood cancer treatments, calls for a report on medical and psychosocial care for pediatric cancer survivors, creates pilot programs to evaluate model systems of care, and initiates studies on insurance coverage and payment of care for childhood cancer survivors.

ACS CAN is working to finish the fight against childhood cancer!