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May 10, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Wexton, Cole, Welch, and Bilirakis,

On behalf of over 220 children's hospitals and all of our nation's children, Children's Hospital Association thanks you for introducing H.R. 623, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0. This legislation would provide a much-needed new source of funding for the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Act. As you know the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program was passed in 2014 in honor of Gabriella Miller, a 10-year-old child advocate who unfortunately passed away due to an inoperable brain tumor.

The original legislation established the Ten-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund and authorized \$12.6 million in annual funds. According to the [National Cancer Institute](#), an estimated 15,780 children will be diagnosed with cancer annually. Further, pediatric cancer remains the number one disease that leads to the death of American children past infancy, yet research funding to study, prevent and treat pediatric cancer remains insufficient. Children have significantly fewer treatment options than adults and often rely on adult tailored treatments if a pediatric one is not available. We must do more to facilitate an understanding of what makes pediatric cancers and diseases unique in order to provide the best care possible and pioneer new treatments.

The Gabriella Miller Research Kids First Research Act 2.0 will provide a new source of funding by redirecting penalties collected from pharmaceutical companies to critical pediatric disease research. With a new sustainable source of funding, this legislation would provide a much-needed boost to the pediatric research community, supporting expanded research efforts to identify the root cause and treatment for many childhood cancers and related conditions. This funding would not have an expiration date, making investments in rare pediatric disease research a permanent investment.

We are thankful to you for recognizing the importance of this funding and hope to see this critical legislation signed into law this Congress. Thank you for being a champion for children's health.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aimee C. Ossman'.

Aimee C. Ossman
Vice President of Public Policy
Children's Hospital Association

CC: Chairman Frank Pallone
Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rogers

Champions for Children's Health