

October 3, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

We are writing as advocates for children, particularly children with complex medical conditions, to **urge you to pass the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act (H.R. 3089/S. 1544) in an end-of-year package this year**. This bipartisan legislation led by Congresswomen Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA) and Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Charles Grassley (R-IA) will help ensure children on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) who require care from providers located outside of their home states will not face unnecessary delays in accessing time-sensitive and essential care.

When a child enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP has clinical needs that cannot be met by providers in his or her home state, the State Medicaid Agency (SMA) and/or Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) in concert with the child's health care provider will determine if that care needs to be delivered out-of-state. When this occurs, the out-of-state provider needs to be screened and subsequently enrolled in the Medicaid program of the child's home state. While states do have the ability to use provider screenings done by other states or by Medicare, there exists no formal process to facilitate a streamlined screening, meaning that providers regularly spend an immense amount of time to address enrollment requirements, which vary significantly by state. When delays in that enrollment occur, access to care is delayed and the child's health situation may worsen.

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act seeks to address this problem in a commonsense way that balances access to care with program integrity needs. The proposal will establish a screening pathway that children's hospitals and related providers can utilize on a voluntary basis for expedited enrollment given the providers' existing enrollment in their own state, allowing providers to expeditiously step in to provide essential care to children with cancer when called upon. This expedited pathway will better facilitate access to critical, time-sensitive treatment and reduce the risk of care disruption and subsequent negative outcomes. The legislation builds upon existing CMS activities, including an ongoing multi-state pilot in which CMS is screening providers via the Advanced Provider Screening System and is also consistent with ongoing efforts to reduce regulatory burdens in health care. It is also consistent with actions CMS has taken via the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) waivers to permit states to waive such requirements during the emergency. Finally, the legislation pertains only to provider screening and enrollment and does not change the authority states have to authorize out-of-state care or negotiate payment with providers who accept such cases.

This bill enjoys strong bipartisan support and is cosponsored by more than 90 House members and by more than 20 Senators. It has received technical assistance (TA) from CMS and the Department of Health and Human Services, and a modified version of the legislation to reflect the TA was included in the Senate Finance Committee's youth mental health draft legislation. We are grateful for this progress and hope this legislation will be enacted this year.

Our organizations advocate or directly care for children with complex health conditions, including children on Medicaid and CHIP. We understand the importance of having access to specialized care, including care that may be located in another state. We urge Congress to advance and enact the **Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act in an end of year package this year**. Thank you for giving this your fullest consideration. If you have any questions, please contact any of us or Nick Manetto at nicholas.manetto@faegredrinker.com.

Sincerely,

1Voice Foundation
3/32 Foundation
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN)
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
Alexa Nawrocki Pediatric Cancer Foundation
Alex's Army Childhood Cancer Foundation
Along Comes Hope
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Academic Pediatric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Angels for Change
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation
Ara Parseghian Medical Research Fund
Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Oncology Social Work
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Bald Beauties Project
Band of Parents
Battlecorn Care Packages
Beads of Courage
Benjamin's Hope for the Future
Blank Children's Hospital
Boston Children's Hospital
Brantley Francis Foundation
Caleb's Crusade Against Childhood Cancer

Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Child Neurology Foundation
Childhood Cancer Awareness Group of Coffee County
Children's Cancer Research Fund
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cancer Cause
Children's Hospital Association
Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Wisconsin
ChildServe
Chris Lantos Foundation
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cory's Project
CURED
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dance Hope Cure
Daniela Conte Foundation
Eosinophilic Family Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Family Voices
Family Voices
Finns Fighters
Glimmer of Hope Foundation
Grandparents in Action
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hemophilia Federation of America
HOPE FASTER
JDRF
Johnny Volpe's Childhood Cancer Awareness Page
Journey4ACure
Kate's Cause
KidneyCAN
KiDS NEED MoRE
Kids v. Cancer
Kylie Rowand Foundation
Lily LaRue Foundation
Liv Like a Unicorn
Livestrong
Lupus Foundation of America
Martin Truex Jr Foundation
Mended *Little* Hearts
Men's Health Network
Mia's Militia
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Mystic Force Foundation

National Brain Tumor Society
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Eczema Association
National Kidney Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Pancreas Foundation
Nemours Children's Health
Olivia Boccuzzi Foundation, Inc.
Oncology Nursing Society
Our Amazing Fighters
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
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Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
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SHEPHERD Foundation
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Stillbrave
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The Alexander Munoz Memorial Fund
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The EVAN Foundation
The Golden Lights Foundation
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Mary Ruchalski Foundation
The Truth 365
The Wes Strong Foundation
Trent's Retreat
Triage Cancer
TSC Alliance
University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

CC: Committee Chairs
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Mike Crapo
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Bill Sponsors
The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Michael Bennet
The Honorable Katherine Clark
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler