



Lawrence N. Shulman, MD, FACP | *Chair*
David P. Winchester, MD, FACS | *Medical Director*

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Jack Reed
U.S. Senate
718 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reed, Capito, Van Hollen, and Isakson:

On behalf of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), I write to express the CoC's support for S. 292, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, which would expand opportunities for childhood cancer research, enhance the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, and improve efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences.

Although pediatric cancer death rates have declined by nearly 70 percent over the past four decades, cancer remains the leading cause of death from disease among children, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). NCI estimates that 10,380 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in the United States among children from birth to 14 years last year, and about 1,250 children are expected to die from the disease this year. This bill builds on the advancements that have been made in childhood cancer research to ensure that children facing a cancer diagnosis have the best opportunities for winning their fight and benefit from access to the highest quality of care.

Investments in childhood cancer research can open doors to new cures and better treatment options in the future. The Commission on Cancer strongly supports the Childhood Cancer STAR Act as it takes important steps in ensuring that our nation's children are given the best odds in treating and beating cancer. We thank you for your efforts and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lawrence N. Shulman, MD, FACP.

Lawrence Shulman, MD, FACP
Chair, Commission on Cancer
American College of Surgeons

Handwritten signature of Alan Thorson, MD, FACS.

Alan Thorson, MD, FACS
Advocacy Committee Chair
Commission on Cancer
American College of Surgeons