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**CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING PACKAGE LEAVES KIDS WITH CANCER BEHIND
23 cancer organizations urge Congress to finish the job in January**

WASHINGTON, DC -- *Tonight, 23 organizations representing millions of childhood cancer patients, survivors, and their families issued the following statement in response House and Senate passage of the American Relief Act:*

“We are deeply disappointed that Congress left kids with cancer behind in its end-of-year package. Congress had the opportunity to pass the most influential childhood cancer legislation in a decade – but instead, it cut out five critical bipartisan policies that would have benefited childhood cancer patients and their families. Together, these policies would have addressed some of the most pressing needs for children with cancer and their families: funding vital research programs, reducing bureaucratic delays to improve access to specialty care and clinical trials, and ensuring children with untreatable cancer have access to new life-saving cures.”

“We are disheartened that Congress eliminated this potential progress from their package – and with it, the hope that it represented for children with cancer.”

“When the 119th Congress is seated and the new session convenes on Jan. 3, 2025, children with cancer must be the first order of business. Children with cancer have waited long enough—it’s time to finish the job.”

The cuts include:

- The Accelerating Kids’ Access to Care Act, which cuts bureaucratic red tape that keeps kids from accessing time-sensitive care across state lines;
- The Creating Hope Reauthorization Act, which incentivizes critical pediatric research, but whose funding has expired due to congressional inaction;
- The Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act, to ensure pediatric studies for possible new treatments are completed on time—and brings us closer to cures;
- Give Kids A Chance Act, which allows researchers to study combinations of new cancer drugs, potentially unlocking new cures for kids; and
- The RARE Act, which clarifies Congress’ interpretation of the Orphan Drug Act to ensure pediatric drug research and development isn’t locked out from newly approved drugs that don’t impact pediatric populations.

The following organizations endorse this statement:

American Childhood Cancer Organization

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

Battlecorn Packages

Cancer Support Community

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Children's Cancer Cause

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Elevate Childhood Cancer Research and Advocacy, Inc.

Hope for Stomach Cancer

Kids v. Cancer

Kolte & Brave Ronil Foundation

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

MACC Fund

Making Headway Foundation

MIB Agents Osteosarcoma

Mithil Prasad Foundation

NMDP (formerly National Marrow Donor Program)

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research

Sarcoma Foundation of America

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