



February 13, 2017

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 292, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write in support of S. 292, the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access and Research (STAR) Act of 2017. This legislation would improve efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, improve the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, ensure pediatric expertise at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and identify opportunities to expand childhood cancer research in order to better treat the 10,380 children diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. every year.

As you know, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that children with cancer and their families face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. While the overall outlook for children with cancer has improved greatly over the last fifty years, as many as two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors experience secondary cancers or follow-up complications. Nurses are also pivotal in following children over time, coordinating their care, and providing referrals for adult survivors of childhood cancer.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

The Childhood Cancer STAR Act will support the advancement of pediatric cancer research and child-focused treatments, and we very much appreciate your dedication to young cancer patients and their families. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society