

Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission

Friday, February 13, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 672

Honorable Chair Heather A. Bagnall, Vice Chair Bonnie L. Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee:

House Bill 672 clarifies wording of Health General §20–120 to achieve its original intent to distribute research funds to nonprofit entities that conduct childhood cancer research in Maryland. These entities rely on grant funding to support this much-needed research. By clarifying eligibility for the research funds, this legislation promotes more timely distribution of research dollars to qualified entities with the expertise and infrastructure to deploy them efficiently.

We, the members of the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission, write in strong and unanimous support of House Bill 672. The Commission is comprised of twelve pediatric cancer experts and individuals with a lived childhood cancer experience. Appointed by Governor Moore pursuant to Health General §20–121, the Commission is charged to ensure that grant funding is available in a timely manner to advance childhood cancer research and deliver meaningful benefits.

Pediatric cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children in Maryland, yet childhood cancers receive a disproportionately small share of cancer research funding. Although outcomes have improved for some diagnoses, many children still face limited treatment options, significant treatment-related toxicities, and poor prognoses. Ensuring that funds in the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund can be awarded promptly to expert nonprofit research entities will accelerate discovery, support clinical trials, and shorten the timeline from scientific innovation to patient benefit. For children with cancer, childhood cancer-specific research remains urgent.

For these reasons, the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission respectfully urges a favorable vote on House Bill 672. We appreciate the Committee’s leadership on this critical issue and stand ready to serve as a resource as the bill moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pediatric Cancer Research Commission

Co-Chair, Dr. Curt Civin



Co-Chair, Ruth Hoffman

