



March 7, 2022

**TO:** The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair  
The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**FROM:** Jocelyn Collins, Delaware, Maryland & Washington, DC Govt Relations Director  
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**SUBJECT:** HB 775 Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund – Establishment and Income Tax Checkoff

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the non-partisan, nonprofit advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN supports state initiatives that appropriate funding to support scientific research on cutting-edge treatments, cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and ways to reduce cancer disparities. As such, ACS CAN supports *HB 775 Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund – Establishment of Income Tax Checkoff*.

Too many types of childhood cancer still have no known cure or treatment. Nationally in 2022, there is estimated to be 10,470 new childhood and adolescent cancer cases and 1,050 estimated deaths.<sup>1</sup>

Here in Maryland, based on the most recent data from the Maryland Cancer Registry, in 2018 there were 239 cancer diagnoses and 36 cancer deaths in children and adolescents under 20 years old.<sup>2</sup> Leukemia, brain and other nervous system, and Hodgkin Lymphoma were noted as the top three cancer cases among children and adolescents.<sup>3</sup> While the three jurisdictions with the highest number of cancer cases among children under 20 years of age included Harford, Anne Arundel, and Wicomico Counties.<sup>4</sup>

All new breakthroughs in freeing the world from the pain and suffering of cancer - from new cures to innovative ways to prevent and treat the disease - have one thing in common; the research was in some way funded. The establishment of the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund will provide a mechanism to fund pediatric cancer and find new cures and innovative ways to prevent and treat the disease.

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. "American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Statistics." *American Cancer Society | Cancer Facts & Statistics - Childhood and Adolescent Cancer*, 14 Jan. 2022, <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#/childhood-cancer>.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Cancer Registry, "Cancer Cases Among Children Age <=19 Years Old in Maryland by Year, 2014-2018." *SEERstat Static Data. CDC WONDER*. 03 March 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Cancer Registry, "Cancer Cases Among Children Age <=19 Years Old Maryland 2014-2018 by Cancer Type." *SEERstat Static Data. CDC WONDER*. 03 March 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Maryland Cancer Registry, "Cancer Cases Among Children Age <=19 Years Old Maryland 2014-2018 by Jurisdiction." *SEERstat Static Data. CDC WONDER*. 03 March 2021.



ACS CAN respectfully asks the Committee for a favorable report on HB 775.