



Dear PAC2,

President Carter said this week that the political situation in DC is the most polarizing since the time of Abe Lincoln and the Civil War. Agree or not, one can only hope that bipartisan collaboration on GOOD causes will always be GOOD politics. In that vein, let's provide an easy building block; something easy to get behind regardless of party:

Supporting the country's efforts to cure childhood cancer.

The [Pediatric Cancer Caucus](#) was launched in June 2009 by Representative [Joe Sestak](#) and Representative [Michael McCaul](#), to:

"serve as a clearinghouse for information on pediatric cancer and a bipartisan forum to aid members of Congress in working together to address pediatric cancer. The caucus strives to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and advocate in support of measures to prevent the pain, suffering and long-term effects of childhood cancers and ultimately eliminate cancer as a threat to all children."

Last week the Caucus facilitated the inaugural briefing to Congress which represented the largest collection of childhood cancer experts ever assembled before Congress. In addition to the representatives mentioned in the PAC2 [Report on the Pediatric Cancer Caucus - September 16, 2010](#) [[Jim Moran \(VA\)](#) and [Jackie Speier \(CA\)](#)] the following representatives attended: Reps Heath [Shuler](#) (D-NC), [Walter Jones](#), (R-NC), [Howard Coble](#) (R-NC), [Chris Van Hollen](#) (D-MD), [Marsha Blackburn](#) (R-TN) plus numerous staff from the Hill.

As of September 20, 2010 there are only 77 members of the House (the Caucus is for House members only) that have joined the Pediatric Cancer Caucus. Increasing the membership of the Caucus will aid bipartisan support for its efforts including:

1. [The Creating Hope Act of 2010](#);
2. The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Research and [Quality of Life Act](#);
3. Re-authorization of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act;
4. Full funding of the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act; and,
5. The creation of a Childhood Cancer Study Section within the National Cancer Institute.



PAC2 encourages you to:

1. Identify your House Representative by clicking this [link](#).
2. Determine if your rep is a member of the Caucus by comparing to the [Caucus membership list](#).
3. If they are a member - you may want to contact them (contact info at the end of the Caucus membership list) and thank them!
4. **If they are not a member - you are encouraged to contact them (contact info at the end of the Caucus membership list) and briefly share that:**
 - **Rep. _____ is your House representative**
 - **You are writing/calling to encourage Rep. _____ to join the House Pediatric Cancer Caucus lead by Rep. Sestak and Rep. McCaul to support Congress's efforts to address childhood cancer**
 - **You have personal experience with childhood cancer (share your story)**
 - **The efforts of the Caucus are key to stopping the #1 killer disease of children, childhood cancer**
 - **Membership in the Caucus can be arranged by contacting the offices of Rep. Sestak at (202) 225-2011 or Rep. McCaul at (202) 225-2401.**

You've been spreading awareness for two years to the world; now it's time to tell our government that it too needs to step up to the plate. We can even see the progress of your efforts by looking at the list in a couple months!

There is a [Forum Post](#) on PAC2's website where you can share the results of your calls/e-mails, and give further suggestions or insights.

Thanks for all you do.

PAC2

PS: It wouldn't hurt for you to contact Sestak's or McCaul's office and thank them for their efforts!