



## ACCELERATING KIDS' ACCESS TO CARE ACT

- Children with cancer often require specialized care from a specific provider or facility that may not be available in their home state.
- Some patients with Medicaid face burdensome, unnecessary delays in accessing time-sensitive care, including clinical trial enrollment, outside of their home state, which can unfortunately cause a child's condition to worsen.
- Please cosponsor **H.R. 1509/S. 752, the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act**, which reduces bureaucratic paperwork to allow children with cancer and other complex medical needs timely access to out-of-state providers when they need it most.
- This legislation unanimously passed the House and was included in the bipartisan health title of the end-of-year package during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Children with cancer face unique health care concerns and regularly require specialized care from a specific provider or facility which can best address the unique needs of the child's medical condition. Unfortunately, these providers or facilities are not available in every state. Even states with leading children's hospitals do not have experts on every condition, treatment, or clinical trial. As a result, many children do not have access to the care they need in their home state.

For children with complex medical needs such as cancer, patients are routinely required to travel out of their home state to receive care from a specific specialist or care team. This includes travel to participate in a clinical trial, which is often the best treatment option available.

More than half of children in the United States rely on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as their central sources of health care coverage, but Medicaid and CHIP coverage is generally limited to providers in a child's home state. Under current requirements, if a child's medical condition requires them to obtain care from an out-of-state provider or an out-of-state care team, the provider or entire care team must go through the screening and enrollment process in the child's home state Medicaid program. While states do have the ability to use provider screenings done by other states or by Medicare, there exists no formal process to facilitate a streamlined screening. This means that providers regularly spend an immense amount of time to address enrollment requirements, which vary significantly by state. This process causes burdensome, unnecessary delays in providing time-sensitive care and can unfortunately cause a child's condition to worsen.

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act would address these delays by creating an alternative opt-in pathway for providers in good standing and caring for children to enroll in multiple state Medicaid programs, allowing them to provide essential, time-sensitive care to children who need it. This legislation only pertains to provider screening and enrollment and does not change the authority states have to authorize out-of-state care and negotiate payment with providers who accept patients of this sort. **Further, this pathway would only be available for services already covered under the child's home state Medicaid program.** By reducing this administrative burden, the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will allow children with complex medical needs better, more timely access to providers who can best meet their needs.