



Champions for Children's Health

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January 18, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of over 220 of the nation's children's hospitals, I am writing to offer our strong support for H.R. 225, The National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013.

As you know, children are not just "small adults." They require highly-specialized care and equally specialized research. Despite children accounting for nearly 20 percent of our nation's population, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has historically invested a far smaller percentage of research dollars – between five and 10 percent – in pediatric biomedical research. As a result it is far more difficult to attract new researchers into the field of pediatrics, launch and sustain basic and translational research endeavors and, ultimately, improve the health of our nation's children by developing safe and effective therapies and treatments. Recognizing the challenging financial constraints Congress must operate within, the Children's Hospital Association strongly supports The National Pediatric Research Network Act as a high-impact and cost-effective solution to this problem.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act would enhance the national commitment to pediatric research across the board by providing the infrastructure – including training and support for younger investigators – that is needed to advance the field for decades to come. The legislation authorizes the NIH to competitively select pediatric research consortia, each of which would be comprised of multiple institutions and focused on a specific research agenda from basic to translational research. It would also require collaboration and resource sharing among the consortia to avoid duplication and maximize the return on investment pediatric medical research.

On behalf of our member hospitals, thank you for your commitment to pediatric research and the health of all children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim Kaufman'.

Jim Kaufman
Vice President, Public Policy
Children's Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Lois Capps
The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Gregg Harper
The Honorable Peter T. King
The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers