



H.R. 1553 – Carolyn Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1553 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Deborah Pryce (R-OH) on March 15, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 7, 2008.

H.R. 1553 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 11, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1553 amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish research programs in the area of pediatric cancers.

The bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a grant mechanism for the establishment of Research Fellowships in Pediatric Cancer to support pediatric clinical and investigators. H.R. 1553 also requires the NIH Director to award a grant for the operation of a national childhood cancer database to track occurrences of pediatric cancer.

The Secretary may award grants to childhood cancer organizations to expand implementation of activities that provide information on treatment protocols, educational outreach, peer-to-peer and parent-to-parent support networks, information on school re-entry and postsecondary education, as well as resource directories for financial assistance and psychological counseling.

The Secretary is required to develop and implement metrics-based performance measures to assess the effectiveness of activities funded under each grant.

H.R. 1553 authorizes appropriations of \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2013, for the purposes of the bill.

BACKGROUND

Cancer is a class of diseases typified by a malignant and invasive growth or tumor. Nearly all cancers are caused by abnormalities in the genetic material of transformed cells. These abnormalities may be due to the effects of carcinogens, such as tobacco smoke, radiation, chemicals, or infectious agents.

Cancer is the most fatal disease among children in the United States. Approximately 2,300 children and teenagers die from cancer every year. According to the National Cancer Institute, incidence rates of childhood cancer have decreased since 1990. The causes of most childhood cancers are yet unknown.

[National Cancer Institute website](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 1553 “would cost \$119 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming the appropriation of the specified amounts.”

[Full CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 1553](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.