

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
SD-156
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you continue to work on the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Bill, we write to express our support for \$10 million to implement the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which was unanimously passed by the Senate before becoming law last year.

Cancer kills more children than any other disease. Every year, more than 12,500 young people are diagnosed with cancer, and approximately 2,300 die from the disease. Yet the causes of most childhood cancers are not known.

Ohio has a particularly troublesome childhood cancer story. Over the past eight years, 20 individuals from ages 3-20 have been diagnosed with unusual cancers in Sandusky, Erie, and Ottawa counties. The Ohio Health Department and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are investigating possible causes of these cancer cases, but have not yet identified their origin. We frankly do not know enough about the disease to reach any definitive conclusions.

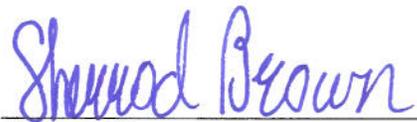
That is why we must increase research on pediatric cancer. Currently, less than 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute's budget is allocated to studies on pediatric cancer. The \$10 million appropriated specifically for pediatric cancer research in the House Appropriations bill is vital to finding better treatments and, ultimately, a cure for childhood cancer. We urge you to keep that \$10 million in direct funding in the final FY 2010 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator