

# HF2057 Session 91 2026 – Childhood Cancer Research

The State of Iowa made a vital first step in 2025 by providing \$1 million to investigate why Iowa rates are so high among all states in cancer incidence with SF647. The time is right to expand this effort to include children in Iowa. We therefore propose additional support be appropriated for childhood cancer research.

**\$1 per Iowan (Capped at \$3 million) to support the following areas.**

## Childhood Cancer Research

4% of cancer research funding from NIH goes to children. Most treatments are derived from adult research and modified to suit a child. However, the impact of cancer on those children who develop it, and on their families, is enormous. Investment in childhood cancer research, including research into improving the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, is clearly needed.

The University of Iowa Pediatric Oncology department led by Dr. David Gordon has several projects underway that will continue as well as expand with this funding.

## **Funding from the State of Iowa for cancer research will...**

- 1) Lead to increased Federal Funding, example Nebraska PCRG LB 417**
- 2) Enhance the competitiveness of Iowa cancer researchers for federal funding. Less than 1 in 20 cancer research grants that are submitted to the NCI will receive support.**
- 3) Serve as the foundation for the emerging biotechnology industry in Iowa and attract the best and the brightest to Iowa.**
- 4) Allow us to accelerate progress and further reduce pain and suffering in Iowa now and for our children and grandchildren.**

Iowans are known for their willingness to support each other during difficult times. This sense of community is vital as we respond to the high rates of cancer in our state, number 2 in the country and the only state with a rising incidence rate. We are all touched by cancer, and we need all Iowans to participate in addressing the challenge.

Some may believe nothing can be done. In fact, we have seen a 30% reduction in deaths from cancer over the past 30 years, and the promise for further reduction in the pain and suffering from cancer in Iowa has never been greater.

Some may say reducing the burden of cancer is not responsibility of government. In fact, government plays an indispensable role. This role focuses on areas where private sector incentives are limited such as cancer prevention, treatment of rare cancers including childhood cancers, and enhancing the quality of life for cancer survivors. Furthermore, government investment in research results in economic growth by creating businesses and jobs based on those discoveries.

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SF647 Cancer Epidemiology Research