



August 19, 2016

The Honorable Michael McCaul
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 5858, the RACE for Children Act

Dear Representative McCaul:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write in support of H.R. 5858, the Research to Accelerate Cures and Equity (RACE) for Children Act. This legislation would establish a program to provide additional incentives for the development of new drugs to treat pediatric cancers.

As you know, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children, and approximately 10,380 children in the United States under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2016. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that children with cancer and their families face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

The RACE for Children Act will support the development of novel and promising cancer drugs for children, and we very much appreciate your dedication to advancing research to treat and cure pediatric cancers. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society