



December 1, 2016

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

On behalf of the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in advancing a critical legislative provision via the 21st Century Cures Act to strengthen the National Institutes of Health (NIH) commitment to pediatric research. As a result of Section 2071, we are hopeful that NIH will move forward to fully implement the National Pediatric Research Network Act (PL 113-55) you co-authored, improving the health and well-being of our nation's children in so doing.

As you know, the Coalition consists of about two dozen of the nation's leading children's hospitals and research institutions. Every day, we care for children afflicted with and battling life-threatening conditions, many with rare and even ultra-rare diseases and disorders. In addition to providing world-class care, our institutions are the leading conductors and funders of pediatric-focused medical research. Combined, research done at or supported by our institutions has led to numerous breakthroughs in how we care for children, discoveries that have transformed our understanding of diseases and that have resulted in disease-modifying therapies and cures. Thanks to this research, the health of children has improved remarkably, which has contributed to major reductions in life-long healthcare costs and increased economic productivity.

Section 2071 of the 21st Century Cures Act strengthens the language of the NPRN to advance implementation of the law in a manner that is consistent with your vision for the law. We are very hopeful that these amendments will spur NIH to take concrete implementation actions in the near-future, and we look forward to working with you and the NIH to achieve this aim.

Finally, we wish to note the commitment of your staff member, Sarah Lloyd Stevenson, who has been critical to this entire process. Thank you, again, for your tireless commitment to advancing the health and well-being of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

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