



October 5, 2018

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
2001 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives DeGette, McCaul, Butterfield, Speier and Kelly:

On behalf of the First Focus Campaign for Children, a national bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal budget and policy decisions, we commend your work on the Children's Program of All-Inclusive Coordinated Care (ChiPACC) Act. We are honored to continue working with you on the bill, have the bill passed, and continue to support the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus.

As the bill makes clear, the lack of Medicaid coverage for hospice and palliative services for children has a detrimental effect on families with children who suffer from life-limiting illnesses. As you know, the National Cancer Institute estimated that over 15,000 children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 years were diagnosed with cancer in 2017 and nearly 1,800 were expected to die of the disease in the United States.

According to the American Cancer Institute, "cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14. About 1,180 children younger than 15 years old are expected to die from cancer in 2018."

Without your effort and that of your colleagues, these numbers could be much higher. Palliative care for our most vulnerable children reduces morbidity and mortality, therefore First Focus Campaign for Children applauds your work on the ChiPACC Act and stands ready to be a partner in getting this bill passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "L" and "y".

Bruce Lesley  
President