



-bringing the healing power of music to children battling cancer

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***Rock Against Cancer Praises Passage of the
“Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act”
in U.S. House of Representatives***

Children with Cancer and their Families to Benefit from Landmark Legislation

Chapel Hill, NC (June 16, 2008)- Rock Against Cancer salutes the United States House of Representatives for passage of H.R. 1553, the “Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act,” which promises to significantly increase federal investment into childhood cancer research.

Companion legislation in the United States Senate (S.911), sponsored by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), cleared the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee unanimously in November, 2007. The Senate version of the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act currently has 63 co-sponsors; a full Senate floor vote on the bill is expected this summer.

Lisa L. White, Ph.D., Rock Against Cancer founder and North Carolina CureSearch Team leader is thrilled to hear of the act’s success. She and her son, Gabriel, will travel to Washington D.C. for the CureSearch Reach the Day Advocacy Event where they will meet with Senators and encourage them to vote for the Act.

Gabriel is the inspiration behind the North Carolina-based nonprofit Rock Against Cancer. At the age of two, he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia also known as childhood leukemia. He fought through thirty-eight months of treatment before going into remission. He will celebrate nine years off treatment this September. During his treatment, Gabriel listened to a David Gray CD every day, something that made it a little easier for him to cope. It was only after his treatment that Lisa discovered Music Therapy while observing Dr. DeForia Lane, a national expert on the use of Music Therapy with young cancer patients, at Rainbow Babies and Children Hospital in Cleveland. This experience sparked the idea to establish Rock Against Cancer and to help other children during their own long and painful cancer treatments. Research has shown that Music Therapy benefits hospitalized children by helping them cope with their illness and increasing their ability to deal with anxiety and pain.

"The experience of being the parent of a child with cancer was both horrifying and enlightening, devastating yet motivating. It is in this spirit that Rock Against Cancer was born. The need to somehow ease the children and families’ journey through cancer with music along with the need to bring this struggle to national public attention formed RAC’s mission."

“On behalf of Rock Against Cancer, we recognize the leadership of Representatives Chris Van Hollen and Deborah Pryce for making the search for a cure for childhood cancer a national priority. Rock

Against Cancer is committed to continuing our work as the Senate vote approaches on the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act. Congress sent a clear signal that childhood cancer research is underfunded and it is unacceptable to close potentially life saving clinical trials to children. My son, Gabriel participated in a clinical trial for childhood leukemia and ten years later he is healthy and able to fully participate in school and sports” said White.

During markup of the legislation, the bill was renamed the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008, in memory of Caroline Pryce Walker, daughter of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (R-OH), who was lost to neuroblastoma in 1999 at age nine.

The bill authorizes \$30 million annually over five years, providing funding for collaborative pediatric cancer clinical trials research, to create a population-based national childhood cancer database, and to further improve public awareness and communication regarding available treatments and research for children with cancer and their families.

“For far too long, children suffering from pediatric cancer have gotten short shift on federal resources,” said Pryce, original author of this groundbreaking legislation.

“The bill we passed today dramatically expands federal investment into childhood cancer research and education, and will make an historic difference in the lives of the more than 12,000 children who will be diagnosed with cancer each year. A nation with our resources, our scientists, our committed doctors and oncologists, and our inherent and insuppressible fighting spirit can and should do more to put an end to so much suffering.”

Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), one of the original co-sponsors of the Carolyn Walker Pryce Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, stated that conquering childhood cancer has transcended partisan politics, and addresses a critical national issue that is finally receiving the attention it deserves.

“I am pleased that the House passed this important legislation, which will bring us one step closer to eradicating pediatric cancer,” said Van Hollen. “This bill will enhance and expand pediatric cancer research activities at the National Institutes of Health, establish a pediatric cancer registry, and increase informational and educational outreach efforts to patients and families affected by pediatric cancer. No child should have to experience and suffer the effects of cancer, and no parent should have to see their child suffer.”

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About Rock Against Cancer

Founded in 2000, Rock Against Cancer is a national non-profit organization using music and Music Therapy while working with well-known entertainers from the music industry to empower and support the emotional needs of young cancer patients. Rock Against Cancer’s programs provide children and families respite from the long and painful cancer treatment process using music, while helping to garner public awareness and support for the youngest cancer survivors. RAC programs include Stars Night Out, Gifts from the Heart, and School of Rock. Lisa White, Ph.D founded Rock Against Cancer after her son, Gabriel, was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of two and went through thirty-eight months of treatment before going into remission. For more information, visit www.rockagainstcancer.org.