

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2010

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UNC Student Pushes Congress to Fund Children's Cancer Research

Local Cancer Survivor Joins Hundreds in Washington for 10th Annual CureSearch for Children's Cancer Capitol Hill Rally and Visits

Washington – This week UNC student Tucker Petty joined hundreds of families of children with cancer on Capitol Hill to ask Congress one question: Where is the research money that was authorized by the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008?

For the last 10 years, the CureSearch for Children's Cancer community has come to Washington seeking more federal funding for children's cancer research to "Reach the Day" when every child with cancer is guaranteed a cure. Two years ago, they celebrated as Congress passed a bill that held the promise of an additional \$30 million per year.

Petty was diagnosed with a juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma in October 2008. She had a resection that month and went through radiation in January and February of 2009. Petty took a medical leave from college for a semester due to her cancer. She is now almost two years cancer-free and back at UNC.

"It was important for me to travel to Washington to meet with North Carolina's Congressional delegates, because children's cancer is now part of my life. Having a childhood cancer survivor lobbying for research funding and survivorship programs makes the disease more real to people. I've realized that a lot of people don't even think that cancer can hit children. I'm a true testament to the fact that it does and something needs to be done about it," said Petty. "As a result of our visits, the other CureSearch advocates and I hope to get some money appropriated to childhood cancer research even in the face of tough economic times."

CureSearch organized more than 250 constituent visits on Capitol Hill for Petty and hundreds of other families to urge Congress to appropriate funds for the bill they passed in 2008.

"When Congress passed The Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act in 2008, not one member voted against the bill," said Former Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (R-OH), mother of Caroline Pryce Walker for whom the Act was named, who died at age nine of neuroblastoma. "We applauded the bipartisan efforts of our leaders, but now we are back to push for full appropriation of this bill."

"Congress has not yet fulfilled the promise it made to these children and their families," said John L. Lehr, President and CEO of CureSearch for Children's Cancer, the foundation that funds and supports the lifesaving, collaborative research of the Children's Oncology Group at more than 230 hospitals nationwide. "The time has come for Congress to appropriate the children's cancer research dollars."

Facts About Children's Cancer

- Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children.
- Each year, nearly 13,500 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer.
- One out of five children with cancer dies, and three out of five who survive suffer devastating, often life-threatening, long-term side effects.
- Only research cures children's cancer.

ABOUT CURESEARCH FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER

CureSearch for Children's Cancer (www.curesearch.org) funds and supports the lifesaving, collaborative research of the Children's Oncology Group, the world's largest cooperative pediatric cancer research organization, which treats 90% of children with cancer in the United States. By supporting the Children's Oncology Group at more than 230 hospitals in North America and around the world, CureSearch enables children with cancer to receive world-class expertise at a hospital close to home.

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