

NIKI TSONGAS  
5TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS  
WWW.TSONGAS.HOUSE.GOV

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2105

1607 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3411  
(202) 226-0771 (FAX)

11 KEARNEY SQUARE  
3RD FLOOR  
LOWELL, MA 01852  
(978) 459-0101  
(978) 459-1907 (FAX)

305 ESSEX STREET  
4TH FLOOR  
LAWRENCE, MA 01840  
(978) 681-6200  
(978) 682-6070 (FAX)

492 MAIN STREET  
ACTON, MA 01776  
(978) 263-1951  
(978) 263-4126 (FAX)

December 14, 2012

Dear Truth365 Campaign,

Since being elected to Congress, it has been my policy not to sign petitions, including those for causes about which I care deeply. I do, however, want to express my support for your goal of raising awareness and research funding for childhood cancers. I know firsthand the challenges cancer can present to a family, and I came to Congress intent on ensuring that all Americans have access to the highest quality care.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been a strong advocate for increased cancer research funding, including funding for child cancer research. This year, as I have in every year since I joined Congress, I joined my colleague Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA) and other members of Congress in advocating for \$32 billion in funding for the NIH. I've been an advocate for fully funding the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which I proudly voted for in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. I have also supported legislation to increase research funding for pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, and breast cancer. I am also a proponent of legislation to increase research on pediatric brain injuries and legislation to incentivize pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs for rare pediatric diseases, such as childhood cancers.

My family benefited from new and experimental therapies, and I have seen firsthand how innovative research can hold the promise for new preventions and therapies. Ending childhood cancers is a goal we should strive for and meet head-on with the best resources our nation has to offer. We need more evidence, more research and more scientific innovation to help children and their families prevent, detect, and fight cancer. Your organization's dedication to promoting child cancer research funding is democracy in action and deserves great credit.

Once again, thank you for contacting me about this effort and please keep in touch on this or any other issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress