



## OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

(Please note, this letter of support was sent to the Co-Chairs of Joint Ways & Means on Thursday, Feb. 9th, 2023 and is being resubmitted for the record for SB 5506.)

**Thursday, February 9th, 2023**

Dear Co-Chair Steiner and Co-Chair Sanchez,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our strong support of the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute's budget request for the 2023 legislative session.

Cancer is a disease that has affected many of us, or those in our family, personally. It is a devastating illness, striking in unexpected moments, and often with devastating severity. Through the efforts of physicians, scientists, healthcare workers, advocates, companies, and many more, there have been revolutionary advancements made for adult cancer interventions, bringing us closer to finding a cure. However, the same cannot be said for childhood cancers.

For many forms of childhood cancer, we've seen little to no advancement in treatment options for decades. In fact, nationally, there have only been 9 effective, FDA approved therapies developed intentionally for childhood cancers in the past 45 years. New discoveries are made in research labs all across the country, but sadly, they are rarely, if ever, translated into new treatments for children. The process of turning a scientific discovery into a new treatment is tedious, time-consuming, and rarely generates big profits. Kids wait for cures in hospital beds while potential interventions lie dormant in scientific journals.

To overcome this stalemate, the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute was founded in 2015 and focuses on addressing the preclinical gap in childhood cancer research. With an annual budget of \$3 million and a team of 16 biologists and biomedical engineers, the Institute provides evidence-based testing for the selection of new drugs to be used in childhood cancer clinical trials, thus seeding pediatric Phase I and II trials. Since its founding, the Institute has delivered 58 peer-reviewed publications which have led to the initiation of national cooperative group trials.

A key aspect of the Institute's progress is integrating technologies and supporting start-ups. As Oregon's only biotech incubator, their facility has hosted three laboratories as part of its innovation ecosystem, which has led to several cutting-edge breakthroughs and new technologies. Additionally, as a freestanding research institution, the Institute can act swiftly and nimbly to achieve results in their work - bringing cost control, speed, and purpose to translate effective treatments into the clinic.

In order to continue this good work, expand their team, and expedite their research, more funding is needed. ***The Institute is seeking a one-time appropriation of \$4 million that would go toward two specific goals:***

- \$3 million to recruit a new medicinal chemist with expertise in drug development. The medicinal chemist will use these funds to recruit up to 10 additional scientists and develop a research program that complements ongoing drug development activities of the Institute's biologists and engineers.
- \$1 million for equipment to support the above-mentioned medicinal chemistry team. This equipment will also be shared in their new laboratory ecosystem with biotech and health startups that the Institute hosts.

We understand working through and setting the state budget is not easy and requires careful thought and consideration. But, we believe this is a worthwhile investment in our community and our children. This one-time allocation would allow the Institute to continue their incredible research and biotechnology work to accelerate the push to find a cure for childhood cancer.

Thank you for your hard work managing our state's budget and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



**Representative Hai Pham**  
*House District 36*



**Representative Nathan Sosa**  
*House District 30*



**Senator Janeen Sollman**  
*Senate District 15*



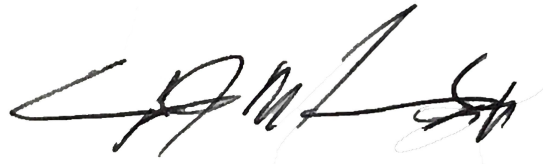
**Representative Christine Goodwin**  
*House District 4*



**Senator Floyd Prozanski**  
*Senate District 4*



**Representative Ed Diehl**  
*House District 17*



**Senator James Manning Jr.**  
*Senate District 7*



**Representative Ben Bowman**  
*House District 25*



**Senator Deb Patterson**  
*Senate District 10*



**Representative Hoa Nguyen**  
*House District 48*



**Senator Suzanne Weber**  
*Senate District 16*



**Representative Greg Smith**  
*House District 57*



**Senator Chris Gorsek**  
*Senate District 25*



**Senator Bill Hansell**  
*Senate District 29*