



Treating Children Without Delays

LLS urges Congress to support H.R. 1509 / S. 752, the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act (AKACA). This bipartisan legislation, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives in September 2024, removes red tape that prevents children with cancer from accessing the specialized care they need.

Every child facing a health crisis deserves access to the treatment they need. **But many children live in states where specialized care is not available locally.** Even some states with leading medical centers lack health providers with expertise in some rare conditions.

As a result, children with complex medical needs like cancer often must travel outside their states to receive treatment.

This might include travel to participate in a clinical trial, which, for many kids, will offer the best treatment available.

Roughly half of children in the U.S. rely on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for their health insurance coverage. **But bureaucratic rules in these programs often limit kids' ability to get timely treatment outside their home state.**

Today, if a child's condition requires treatment from an out-of-state provider, that provider – or sometimes the entire care team – must go through a lengthy enrollment process with the child's home state Medicaid program.

This paperwork can take months, leaving children desperately waiting for care. **This process needlessly results in delays in treatment that can cause a child's condition to worsen.**

For children facing a cancer diagnosis or relapse, every minute matters. In fact, pediatric cancers are often treated as emergencies, with families frequently urged to initiate treatment as quickly as possible.

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act, H.R. 1509 / S. 752, can help eliminate these delays.

This bill allows pediatric providers to enroll more efficiently in multiple state Medicaid programs for a five-year period, positioning them to provide essential, time-sensitive care to children who need it.

Simply put, the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will ensure better, faster healthcare for kids who need it most by reducing the burden on the doctors who treat them.

This legislation enjoys **strong bipartisan and bicameral support**, with over 55 cosponsors in the House and 34 cosponsors in the Senate. In the 118th Congress, the bill finished with 120 cosponsors in the House and over 42 cosponsors in the Senate. In fact, it is one of the **most bipartisan healthcare bills under consideration** in the Senate Finance Committee. It has also received technical assistance from CMS.

On September 17th, 2024, the **House of Representatives unanimously passed** the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. This legislation was also included in the bipartisan negotiated health title of the end-of-year package. Most recently, the bill was included in the House-passed version of H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Please cosponsor the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

To become a cosponsor, email Alexandra.Karabatsos@mail.house.gov (Rep. Trahan) or Matt.Brady@mail.house.gov (Rep. Miller-Meeks). In the Senate, email Nic.Pottebaum@grassley.senate.gov (Sen. Grassley) or Erin.Doty@bennet.senate.gov (Sen. Bennet).

