



CHILDHOOD CANCER PREVENTION INITIATIVE

SAY **YES** TO PREVENTING CHILDHOOD CANCER

A Cross-Sector Initiative Engaging Scientists, Cancer Organizations, Advocacy Groups, Business, Public Health Leaders, Investors, Parents, and Legislators

Childhood cancer is the number one cause of death by disease for children in the United States, killing more children than pediatric AIDS, asthma, cystic fibrosis, and muscular dystrophy combined. And while fewer children are dying of cancer than in the past, the rate of new childhood cancer diagnoses in the U.S. continues to rise steadily each year. In fact, the **34% increase in the rate of childhood cancer diagnoses since 1975** has led a group of scientists, health professionals, businesses, and advocates to sound an alarm about environmental factors that threaten our children. This coalition seeks to establish a National Childhood Cancer Prevention Plan and Research Agenda.

Dozens of chemicals known or suspected of causing cancer in adults – such as solvents, pesticides, and air pollution from vehicular traffic – expose kids where they live, learn, and play. Yet chemicals' contributions to childhood cancer remain understudied. The responsibility should not rest solely on parents to limit children's exposure to toxic substances: businesses and governments have an opportunity to produce and purchase safer products, invest in prevention research, advance public policy to incentivize safer chemicals, and support and expand regulations to reduce suspected contributors to childhood cancer.

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When I think of what my life was like growing up versus what it is now, the differences are very striking. We didn't have an exterminator, we didn't have herbicides for use in the garden. We didn't have non-stick pans or plastics enveloping all of our food products. Infants do not smoke, drink alcohol or have stressful jobs. Are the rise in children's cancers related to the ocean of chemicals in which we now live?

—Dr. Margaret Kripke, Professor Emerita University of Texas - MD Anderson; former Panelist, President's Cancer Panel

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Together, through systemic changes in business practices, government policy, and community engagement, we can prevent childhood cancers and protect countless families from the toll of a cancer diagnosis.



SAY YES, GET INVOLVED, LEARN MORE. Visit:

CHILDHOODCANCERPREVENTION.ORG

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#PREVENTCHILDHOODCANCER