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 **Senate Passes Heller-Backed Bill to Fight Childhood Cancers***Heller is a Cosponsor of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced today that [legislation he cosponsored to accelerate pediatric cancer research and provide resources for young patients](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/2/heller-backs-bipartisan-bill-to-fight-childhood-cancers) was unanimously passed by the U.S. Senate last night. The Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act (S.292) now goes to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration.

According to the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH’s) [National Cancer Institute](https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet#q1), childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy among children in the U.S.

“I applaud the Senate for passing this bipartisan bill to help fight childhood cancers. As the father of four and grandfather of two, protecting children and young adults from deadly diseases is one of my top priorities in Congress and that’s why I’m so pleased that this bill is one step closer to becoming law,” **said Heller.** “This legislation will go a long way toward supporting survivors and helping our nation’s top disease fighters develop treatments to save young lives. I look forward to working with my colleagues to push this bill through the House of Representatives and to send it to the President’s desk for his signature.”

The Childhood Cancer STAR Act was introduced by U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). The legislation is supported by numerous advocates in the childhood cancer community, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Childhood Cancer Organization, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Reps. Michael McCaul (R-TX), Jackie Speier (D-CA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) introduced H.R.820 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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