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 **Heller Backs Bipartisan Bill to Fight Childhood Cancers**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced today that he’s cosponsored the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act, S. 292, bipartisan legislation that would accelerate pediatric cancer research and treatments and provide resources for young patients and survivors.

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.

“As the father of four and grandfather of two, I believe it’s important that Members of Congress work together on policy solutions that will help fight childhood cancers,” **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 Senators Capito and Reed to pass this bill and get 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) and has been referred to the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. 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.

Heller, a member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee’s Subcommittee on Health Care, is a strong supporter of federal efforts to support children’s health care and fight deadly diseases. He recently supported legislation that would extend the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for an additional four years, [provide a six-year reauthorization of CHIP](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=BFF451E7-4BE0-4669-88BB-E36E37C68176), and at the end of last year, President Trump signed into law Heller’s [CHIP Stability Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/12/president-signs-heller-s-chip-stability-act-into-law).

Additionally, Heller has also championed legislation to combat cancer. In October 2017, Heller and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced the [Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=F55FCA0D-0472-45D2-BF8C-0804A2CA5861). He’s also introduced the [Mobile Mammography Promotion Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/50) to ensure continued access to breast cancer screening in underserved areas throughout the United States. The Senator is also a cosponsor of the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017, a bipartisan bill to protect seniors from out-of-pocket costs for preventive colonoscopies.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a previous version of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, H.R. 3381, in the 114th Congress.

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