

Virginia Childhood Cancer Advocacy Day

Sample Messages & Scripts



Email the legislatures assigned to you and include the Virginia Childhood Cancer Advocacy Fact Sheet. If your time permits, please use the Targeted Legislature Directory to reach out to additional key legislatures identified.

Reminders:

- **SHARE YOUR STORY:** If you cut and paste this message, it might go straight to spam. Make sure to insert your personal story to make sure your email is actually read!

SENATOR SAMPLE EMAIL TEMPLATE

To: **Senator/Delegate Name**

From: YOUR NAME

Subject: Support for Childhood Cancer in VA (Budget Item 295)

Dear **Senator/Delegate Name**,

Thank you for taking the time to read this urgent message. As a **Insert Your Role (parent/survivor/volunteer/title)** for **Provide Context (child/organization/workplace)**, I am writing to you today to ask for your support of childhood cancer patients and survivors in the funding – but your vote can change that!

The biennial budget bill includes \$700,289 (Item 295) per year to provide **Pediatric Cancer Support Navigators** for Virginia's five pediatric treatment centers: Carilion Children's, Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Inova Schar Cancer Institute, and UVA Children's Hospital.

The **Pediatric Cancer Support Navigators** will help childhood cancer families prepare for and navigate the transition back to school and life. Here are three reasons why this is so important:

1. There are 325 children currently on active treatment for cancer in our state and there are over 4,000 survivors. The need is great and growing each day.
2. On average, a child will miss 43 school days during their first year of treatment. Their treatment can last up to 3 years and all children have ongoing doctor appointments.
3. Two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors will have at least one permanent late effect, including cognitive effects such as slower processing speeds, short-term memory issues and trouble with executive functioning skills. Or physical effects impacting their ability to hear, see, carry books and walk to class.

SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORY HERE

With your vote yes for **Pediatric Cancer Support Navigators**, you'll help our kids stay on grade level with their peers, receive the right accommodations and have a shot at a bright future. Thank you for giving them that opportunity!