

# The Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research



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## Children's Hospitals and Research Institutions Praise Committee Passage of Cures

### Legislation Includes Novel Research Strategy for Pediatrics

WASHINGTON (May 22, 2015) – The Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, an alliance of the nation's leading children's hospitals and pediatric research institutions, commended the House Energy & Commerce Committee for unanimously passing H.R. 6: the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. The action moves the bill a step closer toward consideration and likely approval by the full House.

The Coalition was a major proponent behind Sec. 1081 of the legislation, which will strengthen the National Institutes of Health's commitment to pediatric research by driving forward the implementation of the National Pediatric Research Network Act Law (Title II of Public Law 113-55).

"The Coalition applauds Chairman Fred Upton, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Ranking Member Frank Pallone and Health Subcommittee Chairman Joe Pitts and Ranking Member Gene Green for ensuring that this provision was included and retained in this legislation," said Dr. David Williams, Chair of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Director of Clinical and Translational Research at Boston Children's Hospital. "The NPRN enjoyed unanimous support from Congress when enacted into law in late 2013, and now is the time to implement this program."

Sec. 1081 will accelerate implementation of the NPRN, which would support a network of multi-site pediatric research consortia to accelerate the pace of discovery to ultimately deliver improved therapies to our nation's children and to enhance understanding of overall health and well-being.

"We know the value of collaboration, particularly in pediatric research since most of the diseases and disorders of childhood are rare conditions, necessitating multi-institution collaborations to advance scientific discovery. Today's action will move us one step closer to supporting the network to enhance the health and well-being of our children," said Dr. Margaret Hostetter, Chair of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and President of the American Pediatric Society.

In addition to Sec. 1081, the Coalition applauded the committee for reauthorizing the NIH and for reauthorizing and appropriating \$10 billion over five years for the new NIH Innovation Fund. It was also pleased to see other pediatric-focused provisions included the package including a sense of Congress supporting a global pediatric clinical trials network and the reauthorization of the rare pediatric disease priority review voucher program, intended to incent development of therapies for such conditions.

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