

STATEMENT OF THE CANDLELIGHTERS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON LABOR, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 1981

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS THOMAS J. BYRNE, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OF THE CANDLELIGHTERS. AS THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE KNOW, THE CANDLELIGHTERS IS AN ORGANIZATION OF PARENTS IN 49 STATES AND NINE NATIONS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE DIED FROM OR ARE CURRENTLY UNDER TREATMENT FOR CANCER.

AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN PREVIOUS APPEARANCES BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE, WE FEEL THAT WE ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO INFORM THE COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS AND RESULTS OF THE FUNDING EFFORTS ON THE CONSUMER LEVEL. AS IN THE PAST, WE WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THOSE AREAS WHICH WE FEEL MERIT FURTHER ATTENTION ON WHERE INCREASED FUNDING LEVELS OR NEW FUNDING IS REQUIRED.

BEFORE ENTERING INTO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS, I MUST EXTEND OUR DEEP APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT. OUR CHILDREN APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER REALIZE.

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I AM HERE TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE CANDLELIGHTERS AND OUR CHILDREN TO ASK YOU FOR MORE.....NOT MORE FOR MORE'S SAKE, BUT MORE SO ADDITIONAL LIVES CAN BE SAVED....MORE TO HELP THE CHILDREN NOW SUFFERING FROM CANCER....MORE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OF US...AND MORE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS WE CAN ABOUT THE DISEASE THAT KILLS MORE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN AMERICA THAN ANY OTHER.

SPECIFICALLY, WE ASK YOU TO FUND:

1. AN ADDITIONAL \$250 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE OPERATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS. I NEED NOT TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS TO THE VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF CANCER.
2. AN ADDITIONAL \$150 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT CANCER TREATMENT AND CARE.
3. AN ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION DOLLARS TO EXPAND THE INFORMATION TRANSFER SYSTEMS TO INCLUDE PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT CASES OF CANCER. SUCH A SYSTEM WILL AID DOCTORS AND ONCOLOGISTS IN THEIR NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTOCOL. THIS, WE FEEL, WILL HELP SAVE THE LIVES OR MORE OF OUR CHILDREN.

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4. A \$160,000 DOLLAR LINE ITEM IN THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE BUDGET TO FUND THE MASSACHUSETTS CANCER INCIDENCE REGISTRY. THIS REGISTRY WILL HELP PINPOINT COMMUNITIES WITH A HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE OF CANCER INCIDENCE IN THE YOUNG AND OLD, SERVING AS A WARNING SIGNAL THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG IN THE COMMUNITY.

5. A \$500,000 DOLLAR LINE ITEM IN THE NCI BUDGET TO FUND A SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT INTO THE CAUSES OF CANCER IN THE CITY OF WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS. THIS CITY HAS TRIPLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF LUEKEMIA IN CHILDREN...AN APPALLING FACT THAT DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION. WE MUST FIND OUT WHY.

IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO NOTE THAT ON THE FIRST THREE ITEMS, THE DOLLAR REQUESTS ARE NOT WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE. OVER THE PAST DECADE, BUDGET REDUCTIONS IN THESE AREAS COUPLED WITH AN ADMITTEDLY HIGH INFLATION RATE HAVE COMBINED TO ROB THESE VALUABLE PROGRAMS OF THE DOLLARS NEEDED.

IT IS ALSO APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMEND THIS COMMITTEE FOR ITS ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE WAR ON CANCER. THE SOLDIERS IN THIS WAR ARE FIGHTING THE BEST FIGHT POSSIBLE...BUT THEY NEED YOUR CONTINUED HELP. THE BEST TRAINED SOLDIER IS OF LITTLE HELP WITHOUT THE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RESOURCES HE NEEDS TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE.

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THE CANDLELIGHTERS ARE HERE TO ASK FOR THOSE RESOURCES...
TO SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS....TO
ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN AN EXPANDED FIGHT AGAINST PEDIATRIC AND
ADOLESCENT CANCER....TO SEEK YOUR VOTES FOR THE FUNDS NEEDED TO
INCLUDE PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT CANCER CASES IN THE INFORMATION
TRANSFER SYSTEM...TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
CANCER INCIDENCE REGISTRY AND THE SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT ON
THE CAUSES OF CANCER IN ONE OF THAT COMMONWEALTH'S COMMUNITIES.

WE ARE HERE TO SEEK THAT ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THE WAR ON
CANCER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE SUPPORT IT RECEIVES. WE DO NOT
CRITICIZE THE EFFORT THAT HAS BEEN MADE. INDEED, WE APPLAUD IT.

BUT WE ARE HERE TO SAY THAT MORE...MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE
DONE TO FUND THE RESEARCH, THE TREATMENT, THE CARE OF THE DISEASE
THAT TAKES MORE LIVES OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN THAN ANY OTHER IN
THIS NATION.

WE ARE HERE TO SPEAK FOR THEM. WE ARE HERE TO SPEAK FOR
THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. WE ARE HERE TO SPEAK FOR THOSE UNDER TREATMENT.
WE ARE HERE TO SPEAK FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP SAVE
THEIR LIVES. AS A GROUP, WE CAN ASK FOR NO LESS. AS THE PARENTS
OF THOSE WHO SUFFER, WE KNOW THE NATION...THROUGH THIS COMMITTEE...
WILL HEAR OUR PLEA.

THANK YOU FOR THIS PRIVILEGE.