



## PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

My son Ian Wise is 5 years old. He was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Almost nothing hurts as much as hearing “Your child has cancer.” At that moment, I felt like my life got turned upside-down. I wanted to scream and shout “WHY MY SON?”

My son has complained about pain in his legs since September 2021. I have taken him to doctor appointments and was told the same thing every time, it's just growing pains. But deep down, I

knew there was something very wrong. December 10th 2021, I took him to the ER after being fed up with hearing the same thing over and over again. It was that night, my world got dark. After running some tests of his blood samples, we were given a diagnosis; Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

There has been a lot of trauma with my children being afraid of the drs now. We have dealt with heartache and depression. This has almost destroyed my family from the pent up anger and hurt it has caused us to take it out on each other.

All the emotions, feeling defeated and lost after hearing that your child has cancer. Being a mom with a child who has cancer changes you. I am not strong, I am exhausted.

Enough with the "I just couldn't imagine".. well I would have never imagined. "I don't know how you do it".. I was never really given a choice here. "I don't think I could ever"... well you don't have to, so you can be grateful for that.

All I have ever wanted was for ALL of my children to always be healthy. Some days are better than others and some days you are just sad. But this is my life now. And unfortunately, this is my son's life now. Yes, he can and he will beat this.. but he will have to live with the lasting effects for the rest of his life. This isn't the life I wanted for him.

I feel like children should not have to have a needle shoved in them at every visit for the next 5 years of their lives. There needs to be a cure for childhood cancers, period. Children shouldn't have to suffer or die when they need to be outside playing and enjoying being a kid. Cancer steals their childhood.

Simple research from the National Cancer Institute on statistical data about childhood cancer paints a gruesome picture of how childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy among children in the United States.

It has been formally estimated in 2022 that over 15,600 children will be diagnosed with childhood cancer, and 1,780 will die of the disease in the United States. Further, brain cancers are the second most common form of childhood cancer, accounting for over 20% of all cases.

By signing this petition, you will be sending a compelling message to Congress to pass federal laws that mandate relevant federal institutions and agencies to increase their spending on childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%.

These children are our future and they deserve the best chance at beating cancer without such harsh treatment and devastating side effects. They are our world. Let's help them succeed!

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