



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Ava was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma at only 3 years old in 2016, when we noticed she was having difficulty and severe pain when walking. This is a type of bone or soft tissue cancer that primarily occurs in children and young adults. They did x-rays and found a tumor growing on her left femur. She immediately went in for major surgery to remove the entire femur bone and they replaced it with a cadaver. But this was only the beginning of Ava's fight.

Chemotherapy started four days after Ava's initial cancer diagnosis. These treatments lasted for a year. They varied from one injection accompanied by a 2-3 day hospital admission, along with a 5 day hospital admission once a month. It was extremely difficult watching this toxic drug meant to save my child, attack her immune system and almost kill her. To this day we still have to watch for damage the chemo may have caused in her other organs, which means she unfortunately will never be done with doctor appointments. But we cannot help but to be extremely thankful that our daughter gets another chance at life.

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. I am passionate about finding a cure for childhood cancer, in hopes that these numbers will decrease drastically with proper research funding.

It was extremely difficult watching Ava spend so many important holidays in the hospital. She was unable to attend special events and birthday parties due to her weakened immune system. During the hospital stays, we would see so many other children come and go, fighting the same battle as Ava. Some of them fight so hard only to lose their battle. It was heart wrenching to think that our child could be one of them and there was nothing we could do to stop it. Which is why I am so passionate about finding a cure. Every child deserves to win their fight.

Ava was dealt an extremely tough hand at such a young age. She fought so hard and we can proudly say that now, our daughter is an extremely healthy 9 year old. She continues to see her Oncologists and her orthopedic surgeon multiple times a year. But we are so blessed to have her here with us. So many children and families are not as lucky. It is time that more is done for these kids. They should not have to fight this horrible disease and worry that they may die.

The current research funding percentage for childhood cancer research is a mere 4%. This is not nearly enough to ensure consistent research in finding a cure for childhood cancer, which is why we need your help. By signing this petition you will be taking a stand to raise the current percentage for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. We need 12 million signatures behind this

petition to begin lobbying for raising the current funds towards children's cancer research. We are our children's only advocates. Let's be their voice for change.

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