



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

In May of 2020, our daughter Charlie had suffered several abnormal symptoms when we decided she needed to be seen by her doctor. They ordered a CT scan to take place the following day. Two hours after her CT scan, we were rushing to the hospital due to the results concluding she had a brain tumor. A day later they were operating on our baby to remove the mass. It was then we received the devastating diagnosis, Medulloblastoma. This is a malignant tumor that begins on the brain or spinal cord. About 20% of all childhood brain tumors are Medulloblastoma, making it the most common brain tumor in children. More than 70% of Medulloblastomas occur in children under 10 years of age.

One month after receiving Charlie's diagnosis, they started her treatments. She was declared to have no evidence of disease rather quickly and things remained that way throughout treatment, which lasted from June of 2020 until August of 2021. Though these treatments ultimately put her in remission by killing the cancer. They are far behind in time and are killing our children's healthy

bodies in the process. So many of the children who do survive cancer and go into remission, will end up with chronic health conditions by the age of 45. Something more needs to be done to prevent this.

The federal government has allocated a baffling 4% of government funding for cancer research in the United States, which is far from enough. This percentage needs to be increased to a minimum of at least 8% for proper research. The signing of this petition will facilitate the lobbying and passing of a healthcare policy or law that allocates a higher percentage of national resources to childhood cancer research.

Since Charlie's diagnosis, there have been many trials and tribulations. Three months after her treatments were finished, we returned for post treatment scans. That was when we received the gutting news no parent wants to hear. Charlie's cancer returned and had spread all over her cerebellum as well as down her spine. Now we live this nightmare everyday, knowing that all we continue to do in helping her fight, is only buying our daughter time with us and there is no cure.

Childhood cancer has completely turned our lives upside down. We are under constant stress financially and emotionally. My husband cannot work due to us being unable to afford daycare for our 2 younger children and someone needs to be available for them while I bring Charlie to her appointments. We have to watch her suffer because the only option left is to spend as much time with her as we can. This is no way for a child to live life. Knowing that she will only get worse until one day she can no longer be here with her family. These are just a few of the many reasons why I am so passionate about finding a cure for this horrible disease. No family should have to suffer the way my family is currently suffering.

By signing this petition, you are sending an important message to Congress to pass federal laws that will increase funding for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. In doing so there will be more dedicated and consistent research to potentially develop childhood cancer vaccines. We need 12 million signatures behind this petition to begin lobbying to raise the current funds towards children's cancer research. No child deserves to suffer the way Charlie currently is. Help us be the voice of change.

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