



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Being the parent to a child who has to battle cancer and will not beat it, is heart wrenching to say the least. Living everyday without our son by our side. It turns your world upside down and not one thing will ever be as it once was. But you have other people you need to be there for, so you have no choice but to move forward no matter how difficult that may be.

Our son Christian was only 2 years old when we received terrifying news. He was diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis. This is a systemic inflammatory syndrome that can be fatal if left untreated. It causes the overactive immune system to attack the body and can cause infection or cancer. Which devastatingly came next.

Christian was diagnosed with EVB T Cell Lymphoma. It took several weeks for doctors to diagnose the cancer, due to Christians bloody stools. They did an MRI and that is when they found it. By that time, we were given two options. We could either subject our son to inhumane and aggressive treatments and risk the same outcome of death. Or we could let our son rest and let him pass peacefully. We decided that due to how hard Christian had to fight only being 2 years old, his body would not be able to handle anymore. Four days after talking with the doctor, Christian passed in my arms surrounded by family.

I am passionate and hopeful that we can raise the funding for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8% because no child deserves to suffer the way that my son did. These children have to learn about their diagnosis, they constantly feel sick and do not understand why this is happening to them. They either get better and risk the cancer coming back or like my son they pass away.

The distress and depression that this has caused and still does is unbearable. We had an apartment when Christian was first diagnosed and had to move due to the hospital being so far away. I had to return one of our vehicles because we could not afford to keep it along with paying medical bills. My marriage suffered and my daughter suffered because we had to put all of her needs second.

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 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.

By signing this petition, you will be giving a voice to the children who were unable to live long enough to have their own. You will also be lobbying to help these children spend less time fighting and more time being the children they deserve to be. They should be spending less time in the hospital and more time being kids. We cannot do this alone, we need your help. Please stand with us on this fight to raise the percentage.

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