



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

When Dominic was 19 months old, we started to notice unsettling changes in him. His bruises took a really long time to disappear and his gums would bleed easily. We brought him to his pediatrician along with his dentist but we never received answers. It was not until an ambulance trip to the Children's Hospital that they ran tests and diagnosed him with Acute Myeloid Leukemia KMT2A-rearrangement.

KMT2A rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukemia, is a high-risk genomic subtype with long-term survival rates of less than 60% across all age groups. These cases present a complex clinical challenge, with a high incidence in infants, high-risk clinical features and propensity for aggressive relapse. Every 2 minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer. Studies from the National Cancer Institute shows that 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.

Dominic fought so hard for his life. But on November 14, 2020, my baby suffered a brain bleed caused by the same drugs that were supposed to help cure him. His tiny body could not handle anymore and I watched him pass in my arms. No matter what Dominic was going through, he was always full of love. Even the nurses looked forward to seeing him on his daily walks through the hospital. The pain we feel on a daily basis is agonizing. Most days I no longer wish to live. My husband suffers from overbearing depression. We just want our son back in our arms.

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. 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 Dominic had to. Help us to be his voice.

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