



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Jonah was a first string quarterback on his high school football team. He had goals of receiving a college football scholarship. He was dedicated to the sport and he was good at it. All of that changed in December when Jonah started complaining of side pain. Initially there was no cause for concern, until he turned Jaundice around Christmas time. That is when our doctors ran tests and let us know that Jonah had T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

According to healthline.com, ALL is the most common form of cancer in children. It is most often diagnosed between ages 2 and 10. About 6,000 people are diagnosed with ALL each year in the United States. T-ALL makes up about

12 to 15 percent of ALL cases in children. Some symptoms of T-ALL include pale skin, fatigue, fever, bone or joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, etc.

The emotional toll it has taken on Jonah is dark. To go from star athlete, to wheelchair bound all in a few months, is devastating to a teenager. All of his dreams were shattered by his diagnosis. He lost all hope thinking that he would never walk again or lead a normal life. I was his caretaker, having to bathe him and help him to the bathroom because he did not have the energy to do anything on his own.

Before starting this journey with my son, I honestly had no idea that childhood cancer even existed. I am passionate about making people aware that this is a real problem and we need to help and be made more aware. There are so many organizations out there that people donate to and I think that Childhood Cancer Research should be one that is more widely known and donated to.

One of the hardest parts in all of this aside from the diagnosis, has to be the fact that so many people do not understand what you are going through. Not even your family and friends who know everything about you, know how hard it is to go through something like this. You are alone and you have to rely on strangers for comfort because they are going through the same thing as you and understand you the most. Watching your child go through the grueling treatments of chemo and radiation. What it does to your body is almost worse than the cancer itself. The side effects of it are deadly. My son had a catastrophic side

effect to one of his medications and has a long lasting side effect from the steroids that will take years to heal.

The federal government has allocated a mere 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. We need 12 million signatures in order to lobby. I know that sounds like a lot, but with your help I think we can reach that number a lot quicker. Please stand with us in the fight against childhood cancer.

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