



My son Carlos was diagnosed soon after turning 14 months old with Neuroblastoma High Risk Stage IV. He fought for two years and three months before passing away on November 1st, 2021 due to this horrible cancer.

Carlos' battle was a hard one. He went through every treatment available for Neuroblastoma and yet his cancer never went away. He was diagnosed at 14 months old and for the following 27 months we lived in the hospital.

He endured so many chemo cycles, nuclear medicine therapy, tumor resections, very high chemo doses with a bone marrow transplant, sixteen chemo immunotherapy cycles and four radiation cycles that included his full brain and spine. Despite all our efforts and all the different treatment plans; the disease remained strong.

The treatment, side effects and toll that came with it were all excruciating. At the end his tiny little body just couldn't take it anymore. There are no words to describe the pain that I felt when my child passed away after this gruesome battle. The worst part of fighting cancer to me was losing him; watching him take his last breath.

The available cancer treatments are inhumane. The side effects are horrible, there's nothing humane about any of the treatments he had to withstand. He suffered as a result of the harsh treatment. This is the reality for many High Risk Neuroblastoma kids. There are no effective treatments for them and nothing has worked successfully.

We have to increase funding to give them a chance at life, to find a real cure. I am helping push this petition to find a cure in hopes to spare other kids and families from the pain and suffering we went through and continue to experience. Our children deserve more than 4% of federal funding for research. We're pushing to double funding and increase to 8% in hopes of getting better treatment regimens and possibly a cure for these childhood cancers.

The National Cancer Institute informs us that childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease, passing infancy among children in the United States. It is estimated that over 15,000 children will be diagnosed this year with childhood cancer and over 1,700 of those children will die. 20% of these children will be diagnosed with brain cancer.

We as parents are stepping up together to lobby an increase of federal funding for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8% and give our children the best chance at beating these cancers. Stand with us and sign this petition.

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