



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Our daughter's unfortunate life circumstances have caused many trials and tribulations for her and the rest of our family since her initial diagnoses. To see the pain and suffering that she had to endure and still does on a daily basis, is heart shattering to say the least. There are medications that we have to take every day, due to our high anxiety and depression, constantly worried about Scarlett's cancer returning.

Scarlett was diagnosed on September 9th, 2020, with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This particular kind of cancer happens when there are too many immature white blood cells in the bone marrow. ALL is the most common type of childhood cancer. Approximately 74% of people under age 20 who are diagnosed with leukemia will receive an ALL diagnosis. There are about 3,000 cases of ALL each year in the United States alone.

It has been a perilous journey thus far with many obstacles along the way. Scarlett of course has suffered the most. All of the appointments where she was poked and had to have her port accessed. Dealing with the constant physical changes her body has gone through due to the harsh chemicals being pumped into her little body. These treatments are unfair and so behind in the times because they are so greatly underfunded. From my understanding, childhood cancer treatments have not changed since the late seventies. The only ones suffering because of underfunding for childhood cancer research are our children.

While glaring statistics from the National Cancer Institute inform us that childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy among children in the United States. This year alone it is estimated that over 15,000 children will be diagnosed with childhood cancer and over 1,700 of those children will die. I do not want my child nor anyone else's to be a part of these statistics. Signing 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.

The hardest part of Scarlett's fight against cancer is never knowing what is going to happen. I am a firm believer in the lord but that does not make any of this less difficult to endure. My child's life is hanging in the balance along with many others because of this horrific disease. Everyday life is also a struggle when your family is going through such hardship. My wife had to resign from her position in order to care for Scarlett full time making sure she gets the care she needs. Scarlett has been in remission since September 29, 2021 but she still faces difficulties every day because of her diagnosis. What many fail to realize is the fight does not end just because of remission. She still has multiple appointments for treatments and check ups to make sure that she is still clear.

By signing this petition, you are sending an important message to Congress to pass federal laws that will allocate the budget necessary to raise the funding for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. You also will not only be increasing awareness over childhood cancer but potentially enabling researchers to find better technology to treat these children. Please take a stand with us in getting 12 million signatures so that we can make a positive change for these children to help save their lives.

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