



PETITION SEEKING 12 MILLION SIGNATURES TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR
CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

At 18 months old Bodhi was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Immediately our lives changed forever. We went from living a normal life at home to seeing the inside of a hospital room for several months. Bodhi also has Down syndrome - which is what likely caused his cancer as they are the same genetic mutation.

Bodhi relapsed after round 1 and had to move to a high dose chemotherapy clinical trial for children with AML and Down syndrome. Seeing your child having to go through any type of medical treatment especially cancer treatment is emotionally exhausting. Seeing the physical pain and torment that these small children face knowing that the treatment can be so much better causes great emotional distress and PTSD.

I know we have the cure, children deserve a cure as they are our future. Getting treatment, we literally had to sign up to a clinical trial with no compensation in order to get treatment after Bodhi relapsed or else he would have continued on the same path with no remission in sight. Chemotherapy is absolutely inhumane! Having a one inch needle stuck in your chest weekly if not more due to infiltration is insane. Getting pumped full of poison and having horrible side effects with really no relief except from anti nausea meds is ridiculous.

We quickly found out that research for childhood cancer was limited and we had no choice but to join a clinical trial for treatment, with only the hopes that these experimental treatments would work! We came home yes in remission but with over \$200,000 worth of hospital bills that continue to come in and will over the next 5 years as childhood cancer isn't done when they ring the bell - it continues as now we deal with the long term side effects that come after chemotherapy.

Simple research from the National Cancer Institute on statistical data about childhood cancer paints a gruesome picture of how 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. Further, brain cancers are the second most common form of childhood cancer, accounting for over 20% of all cases.

By signing this petition, you will be sending a compelling message to Congress to pass federal laws that mandate relevant federal institutions and agencies to increase their spending on childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%.

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