



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Gage was 16 years old when he developed a mass that was misdiagnosed as a lipoma multiple times. The doctors went as far as removing the mass surgically. Unfortunately it was not a lipoma and eventually we received the correct diagnosis, which was extremely difficult to swallow. The culprit was Synovial sarcoma, which is a cancer that can come from different types of soft tissue, such as muscle or ligaments. It is often found in the arm, leg, or foot and near joints such as the wrist or ankle. It can also form in soft tissues in the lung or abdomen. Synovial sarcoma may also be called malignant synovioma.

Watching my son suffer through these treatments that cause irreparable damage was unbearable. The issues that arose and fears that filled my mind along with constant anxiety, not knowing what could change from one day to the next was excruciating. On top of all of this, I was unable to get paid leave from work to care for my son. This left the financial burden of wondering how to pay

medical bills with no money coming in. How do you function through all of these hurdles?

After what seemed like endless therapy treatments, radiation and surgeries; Gage went on to remission his senior year of high school, graduating in 2017. After graduation he moved away to pursue a career in performance mechanics. But tragically only 3 months later, his cancer returned with metastases to his lungs and pleural lining. The cancer was inoperable and Gage was unable to participate in clinical trials for various reasons. There was nothing more that could be done and not long after, my son passed away.

Unfortunately, due to the extreme side effects caused by these toxic treatments, Gage developed kidney disease. The constant and continuous pain that has been caused by his diagnosis and passing is unbearable. My son's experiences through all of what he endured were traumatic. He fought for 3 long years to beat this horrifying disease, with the brief success of remission in between. But none of that was enough to keep him here with us.

I am extremely passionate about finding a cure, solely because I do not want any more children to die from this horrifying disease. There is not enough funding for childhood cancer research, nor do I feel that there is an urgency to find a cure for these kids. Furthermore, it seems that the more rare the cancer is, the less they research it to find proper treatments. Which leaves these poor children to be treated with options that are meant for adults. In some cases the treatment for childhood cancer is what causes their death.

By signing this petition, you are showing your support for an extremely important cause. Each year in the U.S. there are an estimated 15,780 children

between the ages of birth and 19 years of age who are diagnosed with cancer. Approximately 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday. The federal government has allocated a mere 4% of government funding for cancer research in the U.S., which is far from enough. This percentage needs to be increased to 8% for proper research. This will ensure research year round, as opposed to dedicating it to only one month out of the year. We need 12 million signatures to bring this to the next phase. Please stand with us by clicking the link below to sign.

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