



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING OF CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Our daughter Grace had just turned 4 years old when she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) on June 30, 2021. A type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Before diagnosis she had symptoms like fatigue, constantly tired, loss of appetite, pale face and very white lips. We were sent to the emergency room and everything changed for our whole family. We were not prepared for the journey. Grace was airlifted 3 hours away to the nearest Children's Hospital. Grace was not producing enough white blood cells and right away she had to get blood transfusion and platelet transfusion. She also had surgery to place the port that goes in the chest. We were scared and this is something that I could not handle well on my own, but I had to hide my emotions to show strength for our little girl.

The beginning of Grace's treatment was the toughest for us all. We had to figure out how to pay for hospital bills to make it through. We were going to the doctors two times a week due to her hemoglobin and platelets being low or because she had a high fever. As parents we thought that we did something wrong to cause the cancer, but the doctors reassured us that cancer just happens without explanation. We were angry that she had cancer and stressed because we also have our second younger child to take care of. We had to learn hard lessons as a family on the way. Our lives have all changed, everything has become about cancer, chemo and sickness. We have to stay at home to keep Grace protected since her immune system is weak from cancer and treatments. We constantly worry and stress. We all cry and go through so much pain with Grace. Sadly after the beginning, family has not been around to help us when we need them. Hospitals do not always allow siblings to come, which makes it hard for the family when you have no one to help you. We refuse to go down without a fight.

Grace has been through so much pain, but she is the strongest little girl I know. Chemotherapy, labs and spinal tap procedures are very hard on her. The medication that the doctors give to numb her spine does not work well, so she feels the pain. She has been through a lot of blood and platelet transfusions. They also gave her new medicine that was not used before. The medicine that she gets always has side effects, which requires us to watch over her carefully. Steroids are a challenge for her as well; she is unable to control her emotions and gets very angry. She loses interest in food, which causes her to lose weight. Medication also causes her to become very tired and she is always cold. Grace was a very happy and active little girl before cancer. Now she is always sick and tired.

All children and their families deserve better than what is available for them with cancer and we all need more help from the Government. Children are our future, 4% is a disgrace. Going through cancer and learning how it all works is tremendously hard. This disease can happen to any child. Approximately 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with childhood cancer of any age ranging from newborn to teens. After accidents, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14, which means cancer is the #1 leading cause of death to children over any other disease. No child deserves this; No family deserves cancer, yet so many have to live the reality of it every day and even worse, so many children lose their lives.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia is also known as Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. ALL is the most common type of childhood cancer. Approximately 75% of people under age 20 diagnosed with leukemia are diagnosed with ALL. Overall, about 6 of every 10 cases of this type of cancer are children. Most cases occur between age 2 and 5, but it can occur at any age. The word "Acute" in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia comes from the fact that the disease progresses rapidly and if not treated, would most likely be fatal within a few months. ALL creates immature blood cells, rather than mature ones. The word "Lymphocytic" in Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia refers to the affected white blood cells called lymphocytes.

Increasing Federal childhood cancer research funding to 8% is extremely important and needed for proper and effective research for possible prevention, early diagnosis and better treatments. This in turn will cause less suffering as current treatments are extremely harsh and damaging to the human body and mind especially for a developing child. In addition to cancer making children terribly sick, current medications and treatments cause children and their families to suffer long-term. We also need the appropriate research funding to find cures for each type of pediatric cancer. Of all the independent fundraising for research that exists, none of it amounts to what our Federal Government can do for our children with increased childhood cancer research funding.

By signing this petition, you will be paving the way to make a direct and lasting impact upon the lives of many future generations of children and their families; also, you will be helping achieve a bit of justice for those who have already suffered. Help be a voice for children and positive change in this world that we live in. We need 12 million signatures behind this petition to begin lobbying for raising the current US Federal funding allocated towards childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. Together we will make a positive change!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN PETITION](#)