



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Isabella Solorzano was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma at the tender age of 3 years old. This is a cancer that is often found in the small glands on top of the kidneys (adrenal glands). It can develop in the stomach, chest, neck, pelvis, and bones. Children ages five or younger are most commonly affected. Many symptoms of this type of cancer are caused by pressure from the tumor or bone pain if the cancer has spread to the bones. This can cause the child to limp, stop walking or even become unable to walk. Other symptoms may include a lump or mass in the area of the tumor. Each year approximately 700 to 800 children ages birth to 14 are diagnosed with neuroblastoma in the United States. This type of cancer accounts for 6% of all childhood cancers. The 5-year survival rate in children under age 15 is 82%.

Isabella loved being outside. Jumping on her trampoline was one of her favorite activities. She had been doing flips on the trampoline when she took a fall and twisted her neck. Shortly after, we noticed a large lump in that area. When the mass did not go down in size, we immediately took her to the ER. We were then transferred to Mclane children's hospital in Temple, Texas. A biopsy was done the next day on May 29th, 2020 the results came back as a cancerous tumor and that is when our fight began with this ugly disease.

Chemotherapy began soon after her diagnosis. Things happen so quickly when a diagnosis like this is made. You literally have no time to think much less react. Keep in mind, this was at the peak of Covid-19 which meant only 1 person could stay with our sweet baby girl in her room. My wife stayed with her and I stayed outside the hospital all day and night while our daughter was going through her fight. Having to be away from my daughter ripped my heart out. I felt guilty not being there with her and even worse that my wife had to go through this without me by her side. For 8 months we had to travel back and forth for 2 hours at a time so that Isabella could receive the best treatments possible. Sadly, that meant we were away from our other 2 children a lot of the time. Not only was that extremely difficult on us it was equally hard on our boys.

On March 30th, 2021 Isabella's scans had been clear for a long period of time so her doctors were confident enough that they made the decision to remove her port. For 7 months her scans were clear, until the 8th month. At exactly 1 year and 6 months after her first diagnosis, we hear the same earth-shattering words. This was a complete shock not only to us but to her doctors as well considering just 3 months prior her scans were clear. There was no warning and no signs. Isabella's battle began once more. She is now high risk which requires her to endure a more aggressive chemotherapy treatment and she will have to go through that for at least a year. We now have to travel every 3 to 4 weeks almost 3 hours away from our home multiple days at a time. Again, being away from our boys which has taken a toll on our family. But through it all our sweet princess has been so strong and honestly the most resilient person in our entire family. We all draw our strength from her and when we are ready to give up, she lifts us up and keeps us going. She is truly a warrior and our hero.

This year in the United States, an estimated 10,470 children under the age of 15 and approximately 5,480 teens ages 15 to 19 will be diagnosed with cancer. After accidents, cancer remains the second leading cause of death in children. It is estimated that 1,050 deaths from

cancer will occur this year in young children. This is an alarming number of children battling or losing their lives to childhood cancer. Something must be done to change this. My wife and I cannot do this alone however, we can do something with your help. We must raise awareness and stand up against childhood cancer.

The federal government is allocating a baffling 4% for funding for childhood cancer research. This is not nearly enough funding. It is crucial that we see that percentage rise to 8%. By signing this petition, you will help facilitate lobbying and the advance of a healthcare policy that will delegate a higher percentage of resources for childhood cancer research. This will give researchers extra funding to possibly find a childhood cancer vaccine that would greatly decrease the amount of time these children will have to suffer. We need 12 million signatures to advance to the next step in this process. Please help us be the voice of so many unheard children by signing and sharing this petition.

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