



### **PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH**

Jelien was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on January 27, 2019 when she was only 3 years old. 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.

To hear this kind of news is devastating, not only for a child but for the parents and other family members as well. There have been endless amounts of stress on everyone since the beginning of her fight. It is a huge struggle to feel like you are doing enough for all of your children, when you are spending most of your time in the hospital with one that is sick. There were times where some of our kids felt neglected due to their father being the sole breadwinner and myself being gone so much.

We face many hardships in life, some more excruciating than others. But nothing can prepare you, when it has to do with one of your children. Watching Jelien go through the Chemo treatments was traumatic. This is something so toxic on the human body, the doctors wear special suits so they do not come into contact with it. Yet this is supposed to make our children better. Many people do not even know there is a month dedicated to Childhood cancer. This is something that needs to be changed. These are only a couple of reasons why I am so passionate about this cause.

One of the things a lot of people do not see, is how many supporters rally around you when your child is first diagnosed. But as soon as they see your child's hair growing back, they think that everything is fine and they slowly disappear. There needs to be more education on childhood cancer along with a higher percentage of funding for research. People need to be made aware of the fact that just because things start to look better, does not mean your fight is over. Families need all of the love and support they can get during such a painstakingly difficult time. Not just in the beginning of it all.

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.

Jelien rang the bell on March 29, 2021 after a two year battle. She is one of the lucky ones who lived to see remission, but that does not mean that our

fight is over. Chemo takes a lot out of a child and there are continuous appointments and scans that need to be done to ensure that she stays in remission. We still need more help. There is only 4% of funding dedicated to childhood cancer research. That number is not nearly enough to ensure the future of our children will be healthy and cancer free. That number needs to be raised to at least 8% to guarantee more consistent and dedicated research. Which is where you come in. By signing this petition, you will be standing with us to ensure that this goal is achieved. We need 12 million signatures to take this to the next phase in allocating 8% for childhood cancer research. Please click the link below to sign.

**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN](#)**