



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Our son Jesse was diagnosed with Stage 4 PNET brain, spine and skin cancer when he was just 6 years old. This is a group of cancerous tumors that start in the brain. This news is never something you want to hear, but we picked ourselves up and started the 2 year fight alongside Jesse.

Watching our once healthy child become so sick that he was bound to his bed, made us feel helpless. We watched him suffer through treatment after treatment, that caused so many terrible side effects. Just for them to fail, so you have them do more in hopes that there will be some sort of breakthrough and your son will be in remission. But that did not happen, so we had to then come to terms with the fact that we would be burying our little boy long before our time.

The federal government has allocated a baffling 4% of government funding for cancer research in the United States, which is far from enough. This percentage needs to be increased to 8% for proper research. The signing of 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.

I am passionate about finding a cure and raising the research funding percentage because no parent should have to watch their child suffer and die the way that we had to watch my son. If finding a cure could help even one family in this world, it would be worth it to see one less heartache over the loss of a child. Children do not deserve to hear that they have cancer. They are supposed to live a full and happy life surrounded by the people that they love.

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.

Jesse had been misdiagnosed several times before they finally found out what was wrong. By that time, he was at stage 4 with no chance of survival. During Jesse's treatments we had to move states twice and were homeless most of the time. We had to rely on family and friends for financial help and places to stay. Eventually after 2 years of chemo and experimental treatments, there was nothing left to try. We were told that his time was limited, but we always kept hope that something new would come out just in time to try again and save him. It was not meant to be and my son Jesse passed away two months after all treatments were stopped. Due to the financial burden of hospital bills. We had to rely on donations to cover the funeral cost in order to give my son a proper funeral.

Something more needs to be done for our children. The current percentage is not even close to what our children deserve. By signing this petition, you will not only be increasing awareness over childhood cancer but also pushing for increased budgetary allocation toward this noble cause and enable researchers to find better technology for children with brain cancer. Furthermore, intense research will help to someday develop cancer vaccines. We cannot do this without you. Please take a stand with us in getting 12 million signatures.

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