



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

Jlon did several things that some children will only dream about. He went to Disney World and he got to meet his idol, NBA superstar Dwight Howard. But at the end of the day, his prognosis stayed the same. Jlon was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, a rare and aggressive type of cancer that can occur on the brain or spinal cord often occurring in adults. He was only 10 years old at the time. Imagine watching your child slowly get worse before ultimately succumbing to this ugly disease.

Studies show that brain cancers are the second most common form of childhood cancer, accounting for 20% of all cases. I am still grieving the loss of my son the same, if not more than I was when it first happened. The constant feeling like I am partly at fault because I did not see the signs sooner so that I

could save him. The hardest part of this all was not knowing if Jlon would beat this cancer given the statistics.

At the time of Jlon's diagnosis, I was a single mother who could not afford all of the treatments necessary for my son's survival. Watching families with more money, who were able to try experimental treatments for their children while I could not, was extremely devastating. I am passionate about raising the funding for childhood cancer research because there are so many children and families that have to suffer loss and mental anguish during their child's fight.

Jlon had shown improvement early in his diagnosis, but his cancer was resilient. I consulted with Oncologists in Florida and specialists in New York City. Our community rallied around us during our most difficult time and helped raise money to pay some of the medical costs and for a trip to have a specific procedure done in Boston's Children Hospital. They wanted to attack the cancer on his brain in hopes that it would shrink. But no matter how much was done. The cancer did not give up, until my beautiful son was taken.

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.

By signing this petition, you will be making a direct and lasting impact on future children and their families. These children are our future and

they deserve to live long, healthy and happy lives. We need 12 million signatures to take this to Congress. We cannot do it alone, every signature is vital in this fight. Please stand with us. It will not bring my son back, but it could save someone else's.

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