



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

Have you ever met someone who just lit up the room and wanted to see everyone happy? That was my son Joshua. Josh was seventeen years old when he was diagnosed with desmoplastic small round cell tumors(DSRCT), a very rare form of cancer. This type of cancer forms in the connective tissues of the body. These tissues include fat, muscles, tendons, nerves and lymph and blood vessels.

No child should have to go through what Josh went through. Cancer ravages the body. Our whole lives were turned upside down. The fear of not knowing what was going to happen next while also caring for my other children was unbearable. Josh went through aggressive treatment and major resection surgery. This was all so emotionally draining and we still ran out of options. When we realized we were out of options, it became more of prolonging life. Despite our best efforts Josh passed away at the age of twenty. Josh did not want to be defined by his cancer.

He kept a book of writings, one of which read: "Cancer is what I have, not who I am." Josh was very passionate and loved to learn. He wanted to be a pilot in the worst way. We gave him the opportunity to have a few flight lessons. He was very proud of his 8 logged flight hours. While in the hospital he really was his own advocate, better than myself even. He was watching what the nurses were doing and making sure they did things correctly. He corrected them on two occasions, nothing serious thankfully. But, it just shows how on top of things he was. His favorite activity was schmoozing with the nurses. It was actually refreshing for them as well because most patients were younger. Here he was, a young adult who just wanted to engage. He really impressed everyone. He became a spokesperson for Tackle Kids Cancer, a new fundraising initiative launched by his treating hospital which is now nationwide. Josh spoke at various events for Tackle Kids Cancer.

We had no idea the impact Josh had on some people. After he passed, we received several letters. One heartfelt letter spoke of meeting Josh through Tackle Kids Cancer. The letter continued on to say that they really enjoyed listening to Josh talk about his love for planes. The letter was signed, Eli Manning. To know our son made an impact on Eli to personally write us is unfathomable. We are beyond proud of Josh.

Another Josh-ism that was written in his book, was "Knowledge is knowing basic facts, wisdom is what you do with that knowledge." By signing this petition you have the knowledge and wisdom Josh has seen in you to make a difference. Thank you for taking this stand with us and helping Josh's voice be heard. This petition will increase federal funding for childhood cancer research from 4% to 8% so every child will have more options. According to the national library of medicine, "The prognosis of DSRCT patients is very poor, overall survival is approximately 30% to 55% despite chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and aggressive surgical resection.". More needs to be done and every signature counts. There are twelve million signatures needed behind this petition to begin lobbying to increase federal funding for childhood cancer research from four percent to eight percent. Please share this petition with everyone to reach this goal.

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