



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Josie was only 3 years old when she was diagnosed with Biliary Rhabdomyosarcoma. The biliary tree is a rare location of pediatric rhabdomyosarcoma. Due to the low incidence, there is a lack of evidence concerning therapeutic guidelines for this tumor location. BRMS accounts for just 0.5 to 1.5% of all RMS in children. Nevertheless, biliary rhabdomyosarcoma is the most common malignant cause of obstructive jaundice in pediatric patients. Tumors can arise from anywhere in the extra- and intrahepatic biliary tract, with the common bile duct being the most frequent primary tumor site.

The absolute devastation that comes with a cancer diagnosis is unexplainable. Anxiety, depression, and PTSD are only a few of the emotions we faced during Josie's fight. Not knowing if your child is going to make it to the end to ring that bell constantly weighs on your mind. It is especially hard when you have other children who have to witness these things and feel these emotions for

their sick sibling. The long term side effects along with the possibility of recurrence when they do win, will always keep you on edge.

The federal government has allocated a baffling 4% of government funding for cancer research in the U.S., which is far from enough. This percentage needs to be increased to a minimum of at least 8% for proper research. The signing of this petition will facilitate the lobbying and passing of a healthcare policy or law that allows a higher percentage of national resources to childhood cancer research. These increased funds would be much needed, as public healthcare institutions would be consistently researching childhood cancer all year round, rather than waiting for Childhood Awareness Month in September.

Due to Josie being so young, she did not understand what was happening or why she was going through all of this. Chemotherapy to her was a normal occurrence that she assumed every child went through. For 67 weeks, our daughter went through treatments. She was poked hundreds of times throughout her battle. Throwing up daily was just another side effect from these horrifying drugs made for adults, being injected into our tiny daughters body. I am beyond passionate about ensuring that a cure is found because even though Josie was able to ring the bell, I do not want her to ever have to worry about going through this again.

By signing this petition, you will be sending a compelling message to Congress to pass federal laws that mandate relevant federal institutions and agencies to increase their spending on childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. What these children go through on a daily basis, is far from the normalcy they should experience in their young lives. How can we continuously turn a blind eye to the fact that so many children are diagnosed and killed by cancer in the United states each year, let alone all over the world? It is time to come together

now more than ever to reach this goal. We need 12 million signatures to bring the next phase of this fight to fruition. Please stand with us in putting an end to childhood cancer.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN](#)