



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

When you are a young mother with a sick child, you often feel like you do not know where to turn. You want to do what is best for them but at times question whether or not you are doing the right thing to save their life. One thing that is for certain, is you will not rest until they are back to who they once were. These are some of the struggles I faced when my daughter Kaitlyn was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at 18 months old.

ALL is a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects the white blood cells. This is the most common childhood cancer. It occurs when a bone marrow cell develops errors in its DNA. Symptoms may include enlarged lymph nodes, bruising, fever, bone pain, bleeding from the gums and frequent infections. It is estimated that there will be approximately 6,600 new cases of ALL

in the United States in 2022. While acute lymphoblastic leukemia is more common in children than other types of childhood cancer, it has high survival rates. The 5-year relative survival rate for ALL is 68.8%.

The unknowns are some of the most terrifying things that you go through when your child has cancer. You never truly know what to expect. For me, I was young and trying to understand all the information being put in front of me. I did not know what I was doing but I prayed every single night. I prayed that I was making the right choices to keep Kaitlyn alive. Doctors present you with case studies and each one contains different information, which makes you so unsure of it all. The only thing I really knew was that I would do anything necessary to keep Kaitlyn alive.

Fortunately for us, Kaitlyn is in remission and she is a happy healthy 15 year old. However, it was not without many trials and tribulations. It was gut wrenching to watch my daughter go through treatments. These babies are being pumped with drugs that are supposed to make them better. Unfortunately, some of the time these drugs are what takes their lives. We have had many friends who have had children fighting that did not make it. Your heart aches for them knowing that with more funding and research, there is a possibility they would still be here. This is one of the reasons I am so passionate about finding a cure.

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. Studies have shown that after accidents, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14. About 1,050 children under the age of 15 are expected to die from cancer in 2022 alone. So much more needs to be done in order to make sure our children can live long and healthy lives. Please stand with us by clicking on the link below to sign the petition.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN](#)