



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

On September 18, 2017, our 8 year old daughter Karly was diagnosed with high risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia B Cell. A cancer that affects your white blood cells that grow in the bone marrow. Statistics from the National Cancer Institute tell us that this year alone about 3,000 children will be diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. It is also the most common type of childhood cancer.

Not only does cancer take a physical toll, it also takes an emotional one. Being an 8 year old and receiving a cancer diagnosis is terrifying. Karly has been on depression medication for 4 years. She also suffers from long term side

effects due to the harsh chemicals made for adults that were being pumped into her tiny body on a regular basis.

Though Karly has gone on to remission, it is not without many obstacles. Some of the hardest are all of the friends she made during her cancer battle. They, like her, were also fighting this ugly disease. But unfortunately for some, they did not have the same outcome as Karly. This has been extremely difficult, continuously being told that another friend did not make it. This is why we need your help.

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.

Karly would beg me just to go home when she was getting ready to be accessed for chemo and blood. She received 14 blood transfusions in the first year. They had to do 10 spinal taps in the first week she was diagnosed because her spinal fluid was 98% leukemia. It took the doctors over 8 months to diagnose her because they would tell me she was being a normal kid complaining of

stomach and leg pain. They told me to take away dairy and gluten, but they refused to do any blood tests. By the time they finally took my concerns seriously, her legs were covered from top to bottom in bruises. Even given the concerns, still tried telling me she was anemic.

I am passionate about finding a cure for childhood cancer because these children need better treatment options. Karly should be thinking about how she is going to hang out with friends after school or what movie she is going to watch with her family. She should not have to worry about whether or not the cancer will return. My daughter still has nightmares from everything that she went through while fighting ALL.

Aside from everything that Karly went through, nobody talks about what the families of those affected feel on a daily basis, along with long after their child is gone or even reaches remission. You have to constantly put your other children's needs second. Constantly having to leave them at home while you sit in the hospital with your sick child. Sometimes they even lash out or have trouble focusing in school because they are in constant worry of what is going on with their sibling, or they do not understand what is happening.

By signing this petition, you will be facilitating the lobbying and passing of a healthcare policy or law that allocates a higher percentage of national resources

to childhood cancer research. The increased funds would be a much needed shot in the arm as public healthcare institutions would be actively researching childhood cancer all year round, rather than waiting until Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September.

We need 12 million signatures to move this forward. Every signature counts in making that possible. These children are our future and they deserve more than the mere 4% they are given at this time. We will not stop fighting until that number is raised to 8%.

CLICK TO SIGN