



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

Words cannot describe the impact childhood cancer has had on our family. On November 8, 2019, our son Logan at 4 years old was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (T-LBL). The suffering of any child is a terrible thing, but to watch your own child go through cancer and treatments is very traumatic. Trying to explain to your child that they have to do this no matter how painful it will be, no matter how much it will make them sick, that we all have to go through this is so unbelievably hard. Going through this has been about two and a half years lost from each of our lives. We have spent hundreds of hours just driving to appointments. Logan has been given thousands of pills. He has been poked and prodded with hundreds of needles. We have spent hours upon hours watching him closely during infusions for signs of potentially life threatening allergic reactions, which actually happened twice. We have spent countless, exhausting hours trying to get Logan to eat something, and then he would get sick when doing what should be a simple task of brushing his teeth. We have spent countless hours cleaning up after him from being sick and staying up with our son in distress through so many nights.

We are constantly worried and stressed for Logan. If he had lost any more weight the doctors were saying that he would need to have a feeding tube put in. We had to help our son learn to walk again after a month of giving him steroids ravaged his muscles and stole his ability to walk. The fear that we have felt and still feel is indescribable, especially when you notice the hands of the Head Doctor in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at the hospital start to shake as he explains how dangerous the surgery is that your son is about to have. It was incredibly challenging to try to explain to our two year old daughter that she needed to give her big brother Logan a really big hug in a way that she would remember that hug, because that would have been the last hug she ever could have given him if he didn't survive the surgery.

We cannot describe just how horrific it was waking up in the middle of the night by choking sounds to find that Logan was literally blue in color from not being able to breath. We helplessly had to watch him struggle in the effort to start breathing again. The mass was choking him from the inside, and there was nothing we could do to help him at that time. We were so afraid that we would lose him that night.

All of the above and so much that we have not or can not explain, absolutely all of it is Hell on Earth to experience and go through. As the father of Logan, I personally am still trying to deal with it all. I feel broken. Logan finished treatment on March 10, 2022; however, the constant dread of a relapse is waiting around every corner of my mind to pull me back down.

Family turmoil and relationship issues arising from cancer happens often in many families. My wife was shunned by her parents and some of her family because they didn't agree with us going through with the cancer treatment to try to save Logan's life. They personally blame my wife for what they say is "his reaction" as they are in denial and refuse to believe that he has had cancer. In their denial, they have chosen to believe that he was just having a bad reaction to the flu shot. My wife took Logan to his appointment for the flu shot, so according to them, it is all her fault that he has been sick. They would not accept anything less than taking us to court to try to stop his treatment. Imagine having to give up relationships with your family during the most difficult time of your life while your child is struggling to survive. When we needed them most they abandoned us.

My wife had to give up her dog training business for almost two years to be able to take care of our son. Not only was this a loss of revenue, but it was also her passion and her escape from everyday stress. It was her emotional therapy, which helped her keep her sanity before Logan was diagnosed. Our marriage may yet be a causality of this cancer. I love my wife, but we fight more than we ever have, and the grudges that have formed over the past two and a half years will either break us or take years to heal. God please help us as we continue to hang on to fight for our love, our careers, our family, our dreams, and of course our son.

At the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Library of Medicine/National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), it is reported Lymphoblastic lymphoma (LBL) in children is the second most common type of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) in childhood and adolescence, accounting for 25-35% of all cases. The majority, 70-80% is of T-Cell Lymphoblastic origin. Treatment/Therapy, especially for T-LBL with large mediastinal tumors is challenging, with both significant morbidity (suffering) and late sequela, which is the condition of having lasting symptoms in consequence of a past disease and/or injury. The poor outcome for patients who suffer from relapsed T-LBL remains our biggest fear going forward in the possibility of him relapsing.

Approximately 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with pediatric/childhood cancer of any age ranging from newborn to teens. After accidents, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14, which means cancer is the #1 leading cause of death to children over any other disease. No child is immune to this disease. No child deserves cancer; No family deserves cancer, yet so many have to live the reality of cancer every day and even worse, so many children lose their lives.

Coming from someone who has experienced childhood cancer as a parent and is living this fight, Please know cancer can strike anyone's child at any time. We need to have the tools ready to help. With so many years of suffering and time lost by so many individuals in every family that has experienced childhood cancer, it is such a huge ignorance for the US Federal Government to be currently only funding a mere 4% toward Childhood Cancer Research Funding. Increasing this percentage to 8% is needed and incredibly important for proper and effective research for possible prevention, early diagnosis, and better treatments. This in turn will cause less suffering as current treatments are most often extremely harsh and devastating to the human body and mind especially for a developing child. Current treatments cause children and their families to suffer long-term, more than just the cancer alone. We ultimately need appropriate research funding for cures to each type of pediatric cancer. Of all the independent fundraising for research that exists, none of it amounts to what our Federal Government can do for our children with increased childhood cancer research funding.

By signing this petition, you will be paving the way to make a direct and lasting impact upon the lives of many future generations of children and their families; also, you will be helping achieve a bit of justice for those who have already suffered. Help be a voice for children. We need 12 million signatures behind this petition to begin lobbying for raising the current US Federal funding allocated towards childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. Together we will make a positive change!

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