



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Being a single mother to four children, the financial and emotional devastation has really taken a toll on our entire family. At 16 years old, my son Moises received news nobody wants to hear. He has stage four Classical Hodgkin's Lymphoma, EBV+. This is a blood cancer that develops when a type of white blood cell called lymphocytes become out of control.

Moises suffers daily anxiety and fear over what could happen to him if treatment fails. He spends weeks in bed with horrible side effects due to the harsh treatments necessary for his survival. It is noteworthy that the federal funding has allocated only 4% of government funding for cancer research which

is far from enough. This percentage needs to be raised to 8% to ensure proper research.

Children who have cancer may be years behind in school and often face the challenge of lasting memory problems and hearing loss, along with other physical limitations. There is a constant fear of relapse, which leaves caregivers and families on overwhelming guard, wondering and worried about the slightest change in body temperature or headache.

I am passionate about finding a cure because I have seen the financial and emotional damage that cancer can cause a family first hand. Knowing that 90% of parents end up losing their jobs due to extended treatment times is heartbreaking. Not only does it make treatment harder, it also causes additional stress if or when they do make it to the recovery phase. My son should be able to live a normal life like so many other children his age. Due to this cancer, his immune system cannot fight off sickness and he is forced to stay home away from others.

By signing this petition, you are sending an important message to Congress to pass federal laws that will increase childhood cancer research from 4% to 8%. We need 12 million signatures behind this petition to begin lobbying for raising the current funds towards children's cancer research. We are our children's only advocates. Let's be their voice for change.

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