



PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Oliver Fagan was diagnosed with Acute lymphoblastic leukemia on March 15th, 2020 at the young age of 4 years old. ALL is a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects white blood cells. It is the most common type of cancer in children. There are various symptoms of this type of cancer which can include bone pain, fever, frequent infections, shortness of breath and general decrease in energy. If this type of cancer goes untreated, it would likely be fatal within a few months. The American Cancer Society's estimates that there will be approximately 6,600 new cases of ALL in 2022 and roughly 1,560 deaths from this disease. The 5-year survival rate for ALL is 68.8%.

Oliver was a very happy little boy and as most children his age, he loved being a kid. Watching cancer take away his spunk was a blow like no other. When I was given his diagnosis, I was devastated and that empty feeling never goes away. Chemotherapy was extremely hard on my son but sadly there are no other options for treatment. On November 17th, 2021 he underwent a bone marrow transplant. Not being able to truly comfort your child or take away

their fear and pain is the hardest thing I have ever had to go through. As a parent that is all we want to be able to do for our children but yet cancer does not make that possible. This disease is vicious and will turn your world upside down in the blink of an eye. That is what it has done to ours and my sweet son is still battling this disease. Despite all that he has been through he is fighting hard and is the bravest warrior I know.

Each year in the United States there are an estimated 15,780 children between the ages of birth and 19 years of age who are diagnosed with cancer. Roughly 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday. Globally, it is estimated that 400,000 new cases of cancer affect children each year; however, this number may be exceedingly underestimated due to large numbers of cases undiagnosed. Long term side effects of cancer can include damage to the heart, lungs, brain, nerves and kidneys as well as numerous other organs. Children can also experience issues such as delayed cognitive development, growth problems, or infertility. Despite these facts, childhood cancer research remains extremely underfunded.

Not living close to the hospital where your child is being treated is exhausting. I feel like if we had local care that would alleviate so much stress off our shoulders but that is not always the case. To get your child the best possible care that often means traveling great lengths to make that happen. I often feel like home is not even home anymore because we are rarely even there. Unfortunately, we have very few options when it comes to cancer. Our children deserve the chance to live a happy, healthy life. They should not have to fight just to live. This is one of the many reasons why I am so passionate about doing all I can to help advocate for childhood cancer awareness. More needs to be done for our children but I cannot do this alone.

At this time, the federal government is allocating a measly 4% for funding for childhood cancer research. This amount is not nearly enough to make a difference for our children. It is

crucial that we see this percentage rise to 8%. By signing this petition, you will help facilitate lobbying and the advance of a healthcare policy that will grant a higher percentage of resources for childhood cancer research. This would then allow researchers more funding to possibly find a childhood cancer vaccine that would allow children fighting cancer to undergo less harsh treatments. It would also give children more chances of winning their battle with childhood cancer. Too many children are suffering and far too many have lost their battle to such an ugly disease. Please join me in signing and sharing this petition. It is time to stand up and be heard.

[CLICK TO SIGN HERE](#)