

Our Future is worth more than 4%

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Childhood cancer. When you say those words you can see the way people react to it. Often sadness, confusion, and anger. Just by that, you can already see a small part of the impact it has on society.

From personal experience, I can say it has a huge impact on not only the person battling this awful disease but also the family supporting whomever. Cancer is mentally draining. Cancer is emotionally draining. Cancer is physically draining. Cancer is not rare. Statistically 1,400 children are diagnosed with cancer each day just in the US. Cancer has taken a toll upon thousands and thousands of children and their family and friends affected by a diagnosis. That is an absurd amount of people.

Imagine how many children are diagnosed with cancer each day worldwide. Many families are only provided with treatment covered by health insurance. The downside to this is that most of these treatments are decades old and are typically used on adults. Making them extremely toxic and harmful when used to treat children with cancer.

You may be wondering, why not create new treatments? Well, that would only be possible with a significant increase in the amount of federal funding childhood cancer research receives.

Currently childhood cancer research receives only 4% of federal funding. This low amount of federal funding that only allows for minimal expansion of new treatments we can research and attempt to try. Leaving the majority of children with decade old, toxic and harmful treatments. These treatments are not made for children. They are treatments made for adults that are then used for children. They continue this treatment until it becomes too toxic for the children. This process continues until the child is cancer free or dies. Harsh, but this is the unfortunate truth. This goes to say that we need new treatments and a safer way of treating these children whom are the future of our world.

Most childhood cancers have a survival rate of



This is Wilhelmina. My sister fought Stage IV Glioblastoma for 18 months. She passed away at 10 years old after fighting for her life since the age of eight.

above 80% with pediatric brain cancer being the exception due to having a 5% survival rate. The survival rate is a number that will hopefully increase. But, this also has a downside. Eighty percent of children who survive this disease have years and years to live. These years are not the same years their peers get to live. These children are living 10+ years of even more suffering. Cancer has detrimental effects. It can leave survivors with mental health problems, socialization problems, and physical problems that will never go away.

Childhood cancer is one of the largest issues today. But, it goes un-seen. It is more than just a sick child. It is more than just hair loss. It is an unavoidable crisis that tears many families apart, puts care takers in a drowning financial state and leaves families hopeless and upset. Many of these issues can be changed for the better if a significant amount of funding and sympathy were put towards childhood cancer and the thousands of people affected.