



January 13, 2022

Maryland Senate Committee on Budget and Taxation  
Chair: Senator Guzzone  
Vice Chair: Senator Rosapepe

Dear Senator Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

I am writing to you regarding childhood cancer in Maryland. This state is number 13 in the country for incidence rates of childhood lymphoma. Three Maryland counties are showing higher mortality rates for pediatric cancer than the national average (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City and Prince Georges according to cancer.gov).

April 8, 2018 my family was not a cancer family. April 9, 2018, we became a pediatric cancer family when my 9 year old daughter was diagnosed with Germinoma, a Germ Cell Brain Tumor. She had 4 rounds of chemotherapy and 24 rounds of proton radiation. She is currently showing no evidence of disease and I am dedicated to helping other warriors and families in this fight.

Cancer is not something you want in your vocabulary, in your home or with a child. **Pediatric cancer is the number 1 death by disease for children in this country.** The majority of spending at the federal level for cancer research is dedicated to adults.

### **What about kids?**

States have the opportunity to make up the disparity. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kentucky and Texas have dedicated funding to pediatric cancer research at the state level. I know this state can lead this country in implementing state funding for pediatric cancer research. Together we can make a difference for kids with cancer and fund more research so there are less toxic treatments and more survivors. We can also protect those that survive from a lifetime of side effects.

My life is marked by before pediatric cancer and after. I am thankful that my daughter gets an after and I am determined to make an impact for those fighting today and those that will be in the fight in the future.

I am here for Grace and Sully and Mason and Naomi and Ethan. This is the approximate number of kids that will be diagnosed with childhood cancer this week in Maryland. **Let's make a difference for them.**

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,

*Aubrey Reichard-Eline*

Aubrey Reichard-Eline  
Pediatric Cancer Mom  
Director of Corporate & Community Engagement  
American Childhood Cancer Organization  
908.403.3232 | areichard-eline@acco.org