

Good Morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy (Shee-hee), and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for opportunity to allow me, Rebecca to come and present to you my testimony on Senate Bill 77, which will create the KylerStrong "DIPG AWARENESS" license plate. I would like to ask of you now to picture in your mind a special child, YOUR child, niece, nephew...and keep that special person in your mind while I continue to speak for the next couple of minutes. Thank you.

Kyler Anthony Bradley is not just anyone, he's my son. He was a beautiful, healthy, loving, funny, care free, open minded 10 year old that never knew a stranger. Or should I say, everyone knew Kyler especially the principle and the Dare Officer... long story. Those blue eyes and freckles could light up a room. Kyler's life consisted of school, 4 wheelers, boating, riding bikes, skate boards, friends, and just doing what boys do! He had his red senior belt in Karate, a pup named Keegan, a bearded dragon named Klyde and an older brother named Kirk! Life for this amazing boy was just like any other child. And boy did he live life to the fullest and kept us on our toes. Never a dull moment in the Bradley household, if you know what I mean! Kyler turned 10 on September 1, 2015. He waited his whole life to be in his double digits and had just started in the 5th grade.

Sunday, October 11 I noticed that his left eye was looking in at his nose and his right eye was still straight. I called the eye doctor the next day and we went to see him at his office that Wednesday. He knew something was wrong but wasn't sure so he sent us to Dayton Children's Hospital to see a specialist on Friday, October 16, 2015. A date I'll never forget!

An MRI was ordered and that was when Kyler's life changed forever! 6 weeks and 3 days after Kyler's 10th Birthday, we learned he had DIPG (diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma), and our world was ripped apart. The doctor said, "Inoperable, no effective treatments, no cure, 6-12 months to live." Imagine having to be the one to tell your child that they have a cancerous tumor in their brainstem and when your child asks you if they are going to die, you say "Yes, but you have to promise me to fight with all you have!"

Sadly Kyler lost movement on his whole right side within 10 days after diagnoses and had to be put into a wheelchair. On November 2, 2015 Kyler went into Respiratory failure after being put into the hospital for what was supposed to be a 2 day stay for the start of a clinical trial for a new chemo drug and radiation. But due to being in ICU on life support and being intubated, Kyler no longer qualified for the clinical trial drug as it had to be taken oral. So radiation was the only option left. Kyler did 30 treatments from ICU on life support.

After that was over, there was nothing left but to wait for him to die. Getting a trach and NGJ tube was the only option in order for him to come home. We did just that and he finally came home on January 8, 2016.

A lot of amazing people stood outside or home praying and close family/friends were by Kyler's side when he took his last breath in my arms, while looking into my eyes, at home on April 12, 2016. Another date that I'll never forget! He was 4 days short of the 6 month mark and still only 10 years old...I will never forget the moment his heart stopped and mine kept beating.

I started the KylerStrong Foundation in May 2016. It is made up of volunteers only. Our mission statement "Dedicated and driven to raise awareness and funding to find the cure, cause and prevention of DIPG brain cancer so that no parent or child EVER has to take this journey". Our Foundation gives 100% to DIPG Research. Within 7 months of the start of our Foundation we gave \$44,000 , plus this past August we just gave an additional \$16,000 to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for DIPG Research. That's a total of \$60,000 in 15 months!!

We donated Kyler's tumor and brain to research at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Only about 20% of the DIPG tumors survive and proud to say Kyler's did. So they are growing his tumor in petri dishes that are being used in research today.

As a matter of fact it was confirmed 2 months ago that Kyler's tumor is still viable and being used in ongoing DIPG research .

DIPG is a death sentence! It has no cure. The average age of diagnoses is 6-7 years old and children live an average of 9 months after diagnoses. Kyler was not that lucky. 90% of children will die within 1 year. We need more awareness and more funding as our children deserve it. Less than 4% is spent on Childhood cancer and less than 1% of that is spent on DIPG.

“Sometimes real superheroes live in the hearts of small children fighting big battles.” Every license plate purchased, \$15 will be donated to the KylerStrong Foundation and 100% of that goes to DIPG Research. There is also a link (ENDDIPG.ORG) on the plates that will take you to Kyler's story and DIPG Awareness. I have met with some other DIPG families and seen their children; it is unbearable and heartbreaking to watch these children suffer. I at times struggle to get out of bed each day and to take on the daily tasks. My heart is not at peace but I do get out of bed every day to honor Kyler and my promise to him. Kyler's motto was “Left foot forward and go THAT direction”. Remember his right side did not work. So that's what I do. I am his voice and I will make sure he is heard. It is his story... not mine, He asked for a Miracle, He Believed. He may not have gotten his Miracle, but I believe the miracle was getting one moment with him as Kyler did more in 6 months than I will ever do in my entire life.

Please meet my son, Kyler.

We ask you to please support the KylerStrong “DIPG AWARENESS” license plate so we can continue to support DIPG Research. How could you not want to help me? Next time it could be your special someone you have in mind that all of a sudden their eye turns in or they get double vision?

Remember DIPG doesn't have a face until it's your child or someone you know!

I would be happy to address any questions you have at this time.