



March 3, 2017

The Honorable Senator Stephanie Kunze
State House Room 128
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Kunze:

I am writing in support of your movement for a DIPG Awareness Day on May 17th for Ohio. I applaud not only your efforts at developing awareness of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma but also the attention and support that will no doubt result from this proclamation.

As the global leader in DIPG funding, awareness and research, The Cure Starts Now Foundation has been responsible for over 60% of all DIPG and homerun cancer research development since our creation in 2007 after the passing of our 6-year-old daughter, Elena, from DIPG. At that time we discovered that although most researchers were enthusiastic about the applicable lessons that could be learned from focusing on DIPG in a global fight against all cancers, less than \$300,000 was ever spent on specific research into this deadly cancer. Since then, due to our efforts, nearly \$8 million has been developed on focused research. We will fund another \$3-4 million this year alone. Through this we've partnered with over 44 hospitals nationwide to create the DIPG Registry (www.dipgregistry.com), we've created the DIPG Collaborative (www.dipg.org), we host and produce the DIPG Collaborative Symposium in Cincinnati and we've funded protocols worldwide.

This is a global movement. The Cure Starts Now Foundation currently numbers over 30 chapters, including India and Australia, building a network of families to focus on this rare disease that provide a "homerun cure" strategy for all cancers. Recently we were also joined by Lauren Hill, the 19-year-old basketball player who raised \$2.2 million for DIPG research through The Cure Starts Now and found a place in the hearts of millions nationwide.

When successful, I welcome you and other officials, including even federal officials if successful on a larger front, to potentially join us in the proclamation at the DIPG Collaborative Symposium May 5th in Cincinnati. It is the world's largest DIPG conference with researchers and foundations from around the world. I believe you will find this group to be enthusiastic supporters of your effort and the "homerun cure." The cure starts now.

Sincerely,

Brooke and Keith Desserich
Executive Director, Chairman and Founders
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A 501C3 Non-Profit Foundation – #26-0269131

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