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Proponent of SB147

Hello my name is Kimberly Stroup and I am the mother to an eight-year-old little girl named Sydney. Sydney was born May 25, 2007, 6lbs. 8 oz. seemingly normal and healthy. In January of 2008, at the age of eight months, we noticed a single right eye twitch. Having no previous experience or history with seizures we made note, but dismissed the occurrence. The next day we noticed two such incidences, and felt compelled to head to the Children's Mercy South Emergency Room. Numerous tests were run, but there was nothing conclusive found. Sydney was prescribed Phenobarbital, and we were sent home having 3-5 seizures a day. A month later Sydney started having drop attacks, seizures with no warning, collapsing her to the ground. Another medication was added, and within the month a third was added. Sydney's condition continued to deteriorate, and as an additional note her heart rate started plummeting with each seizure. You can imagine the fear that goes through your mind as your child's lips start turning purple due to lack of oxygen. Seizures started numbering in the 40+ per day range and she was once again admitted to the Children's Hospital.

Within two days of being admitted, Sydney's seizures doubled and were totaling roughly 80 per day. Medications were added, and taken away, and then added again. At this point Sydney was intubated. And as a "last resort" they added a medication called Felbatol to her "cocktail", A drug that the food and drug administration required that we sign off on before the doctors would administer her first dose. The reason this was required by law was due to the potential result of organ failures and toxicity associated with the medication.

Fast forward to today, Sydney has had two substantial brain surgeries performed at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland Ohio, she's tried... and failed the ketogenic diet, she's had a vagal nerve stimulator implanted into her chest in hopes of disrupting seizure effectivity...no gained benefit, she's tried ...and failed 15 medications. Her daily existence is maintained by two toxic drugs. One of which is so highly addictive that to wean her will take just shy of 2 1/2 years, and the other is the above-mentioned that required a signature for the FDA. Her levels are monitored closely with the realization that her body could become toxic at any given time. Her seizures persist daily, 2 to 3. They steal from her life, and our family. Most closely associated with a word like terrorism, random, without warning, without regret or remorse. But the seizures are only an accomplice to this theft. The other half of the dynamic is Sydney's medication, and the inflicting side effects . Are there pharmaceuticals to help offset the side effects...of course. But my daughter’s fragile system can take no more. At at this point there's nothing left to try...except hemp oil. Sydney has a diagnosis for her condition, she is cortically dysplastic. And all around the country I am hearing miraculous accounts of how hemp oil played such a favorable role in the lives of children of cortical dysplasia. I read the research, I follow the parent accounts, and I accept the responsibility! I'm asking for consideration, I'm asking for a chance to uncover my daughter, and I am asking for a chance at life.

With Gratitude,
Kimberly Stroup