

Chairman Peterson, members of the committee, thank you for having me here today. My name is Deliece Hofen and I founded Braden's Hope to fund research to fight childhood cancer. Braden's Hope is named after my son Braden, who was diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma when he was three years old. With only a 30% chance of survival, Braden went into remission after a year and a half of treatment. Three months after finishing treatment, Braden's Neuroblastoma relapsed and there is no known cure for relapsed Neuroblastoma. However, Braden was a fighter and achieved a second remission. Unfortunately, in 2013 Braden was diagnosed with a secondary form of leukemia caused by the treatment to save his life from Neuroblastoma. No child has ever survived this particular form of secondary leukemia and relapsed neuroblastoma, until Braden Hofen. Braden is now 16 years old, a sophomore in high school and has been in remission from both of his cancers for what will be 7 years in just a few weeks.

During rounds of treatments, like any mom would, I started researching childhood cancers. I learned that childhood cancer research is grossly over-looked and under-funded in comparison to adult cancers. I vowed that no other family would ever have to hear the words I had heard too many times, that there was "No Known Cure."

In the United States, in 2018, it is estimated that 15,590 children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 will be diagnosed with cancer and 1,780 will die of these diseases. (1) According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the largest government funder of cancer research, all childhood cancer research combined receives less than 4% of the total cancer research budget.

To support our mission – to fund targeted treatments of childhood cancers to shut down the activators of those cancer - we founded Braden's Hope, A 501c3 to raise awareness of childhood cancers and to raise funds for research studies of targeted therapies that shut down the activators of childhood cancers.

Having a license plate to support this ongoing childhood cancer research with the University of Kansas Cancer Center and Children's Mercy Hospital would raise an estimated \$12,500 each year to fund research and potential therapies to help save our children.

I ask that you support me and Braden's Hope in our vision to deliver hope to children and families fighting cancer and approve of this special license plate. This license plate will enable additional research to be conducted to help defeat childhood cancers. I'm urging you to please pass HB 2166 to contribute to funding this important research.

Thank you again for having me here today, I will be available if you have any questions.

(1) <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet#r1>