

QUINTIN'S TESTIMONIAL

Hi my name is Quintin Lovato and I am 9 years old. I have Epilepsy and Tourette's. I am scared every day because I could have a seizure. If I could have one wish I would wish for my seizures to go away. If they went away I could focus more on school and making friends.

When I have a seizure I feel like I'm knocked out and it's very scary. I don't remember anything. It also scares my friends and family especially my little brother Kenyon.

I have to take medicine to help me not have seizures and tics. My old medicine made me feel like I wasn't good at anything and it made me feel tired and lazy. My new medicine makes me feel like I can really focus on baseball and school. It makes me feel like I don't have Epilepsy and Tourette's as much anymore. It has also made my seizures and tics almost go away.

If I could take my Haleigh's Hope in the middle of the day maybe my seizures would go away. If I didn't have seizures then I could live a more normal life like the other kids at school.

Please help kids with Epilepsy and Tourette's get there medicine while they are at school so they can live a more normal life and worry about just being a kid.

HANNAH'S (QUINTIN'S MOM) TESTIMONIAL

“Mommy, my eyes are bothering me.” Those were the words that were spoken seconds before our whole world changed on March 8th, 2014. Quintin fell to the ground in a grand mal seizure and thus began our journey with Epilepsy. Quintin was rushed to the hospital and prescribed a pharmaceutical drug called Keppra. He was diagnosed with epilepsy just a few days later.

Quintin hasn't been the same since that day. He went from a sweet, loving, kind and polite boy who excelled in school and sports to a withdrawn, angry, emotion filled child who got less than 4 hours of sleep per night. People walking down the street saw a normal boy because despite his struggles he carried on like the super hero he is. What they didn't see is my husband carrying Quintin up the stairs every morning because his legs refused to work, or emotional breakdowns that would cause him to cry inconsolably for hours. It was nearly impossible to make it through the day without a breakdown. The bags under his eyes were visible from a mile away as he was exhausted.

We were gifted a seizure alert monitor so that we could detect seizures in his sleep. The monitor records any movement that lasts 20 seconds or more and alarms us of any movement 30 seconds or more so we can run to his side during a seizure. His monitor captures over 400 recordings per night.

How could a child function when he's emotionally withdrawn and absolutely exhausted? His teachers had to rearrange his school day in order for him to be successful. Imagine a child trying to make friends and hold social relationships when he's singled out like that and too exhausted to make any effort in anything more than just trying to get through the day. He had no friends. The first thing he did when I picked him up from school every day was break down and cry. My son was going downhill fast.

In 2016 Q starting showing signs of Tourette's syndrome and by the spring of 2017 his tics were so bad that he had pain in his neck from his head bobbing tics and his vocal tics had become so bad that kids were starting to label him. I contacted his neurologist and we decided that it was time to switch medications. The transition was tedious to say the least. We were now on two medications. As we started to wean him off the Keppra his seizures came back and his Tourette's Tics became debilitating.

This is when we decided to stop the weaning process and add Cannabis Oil. We added Haleigh's Hope CBD Oil to his daily meds. The CBD Oil must be spaced out from his pharmaceuticals so they don't interfere with one another. It is recommended that Quintin gets three doses of the CBD oil per day. Due to spacing schedules and work schedules Quintin was only able to get two doses of the medication.

We saw vast improvements in Quintin's sleeping and emotional well-being within just a week. Within three months we were able to successfully wean him off Keppra. His horrible side effects started to vanish along with his Tourette's tics. He's sleeping, he's made friends, he's playing baseball and he's a happy 9-year old. He is still yet to be seizure free but we are so close and we finally have our son back.

As of now Jack's Law allows a parent or caregiver to come to the school and administer the dose of medical marijuana to the student. While Jack's Law makes it possible for children to get their medications during the school hours there are some key factors that aren't being considered.

First being that many parents have to work and their schedules or logistics don't allow for them to administer the middle of the day dose. More important is that while it may seem that the child's parent is the best option for administering medication to their child it actually carries implications. When a young child is pulled from the classroom to come to the front office to take their medication many factors come into play. The child simply

losses focus on the instruction they are involved in. Young children often want to go home with the parent making it difficult to get the child back into their routine for the remainder of the day and the social implications are significant. “Why does your Mommy come to school every day?”

With Quintin’s Amendment, children would be able to sneak away from the classroom at a set time every day to head to the nurses office and quickly take their medication and head right back to class taking away the distraction and interruption and at the same time keeping it confidential from their peers and staff.

While I understand there are concerns with this bill, I feel the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages. Just look at my sweet child. He went from a timid, angry, sad, emotional and depressed little boy with life threatening seizures and debilitating motor and vocal tics to a child who is standing before you today asking you to help him make the world a better place for children like himself.