



CITIZEN'S BRIEFING BOOK

To
President Barack Obama

From
The American People



Note from the Transition:

As a closing act for the Transition, Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett requested that the Office of Public Liaison create a process by which Americans outside of Washington could come together to present ideas directly to the President – a “Citizen’s Briefing Book.”

The idea was to use the Transition website, change.gov, to create a grassroots version of the research binders that presidents receive every day. But instead of advice from top government officials, the Citizen’s Briefing Book is composed of ideas submitted by ordinary people and reflecting the enthusiastic engagement from the public we saw throughout the course of Change.gov.

125,000 users submitted over 44,000 ideas and cast over 1.4 million votes, with the most popular ideas accumulating tens of thousands of votes each. This book contains some of the top ideas, broken into groups by issue area. You can tell how popular each idea was by looking at the number next to it – it represents how many people voted for the idea, with 10 points awarded for each positive vote. In addition, you will find a “word cloud” for each category of ideas representing the frequency with which various words and concepts appeared through the entire process.

Out of the tens of thousands of submissions, these ideas found the most support; here they are, unvarnished and unedited.



- Protect our children as we, not authorities, see fit
 - Give birth under the circumstances we see fit
- JJ Monte

Increased Funding for Childhood Cancer, 16500 points

Dear President Obama:

Childhood cancer is the number one killer disease of our children today: More than from asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, congenital anomalies, and pediatric AIDS combined. Our children, your children, have a 1 in 300 chance of being diagnosed with cancer before age 20. Each school day, 46 more children are diagnosed. Survival rates, while improving, have leveled at around 75%; and each day 7 children die from cancer. In addition, each day, nearly 40,000 children are in treatment.

Treatments for childhood cancer have not changed for 20 years, with "down-sized" adult treatments being the primary means. These treatments leave 60% of the SURVIVORS with long-term health issues ranging from infertility to developmental problems to major organ damage to higher risk for secondary cancers.

Yet funding for our children's number one killer is woefully inadequate. Our generation has mobilized against breast, color and prostate cancer, yet we have grossly failed our children in funding improvements in their care. Funding for research into prostate cancer is over \$2000 for each year of potential life lost. Similarly, colon cancer and breast cancer receive approximately \$350 and \$150 respectively for each year of potential life lost. Childhood cancer receives about \$23 for each year of potential life lost. We are ashamed.

I did not know this until Father's Day 2007 when my 14 year old son AJ was diagnosed with cancer. He was a happy, healthy, athletic young man that was a joy to be around. He supported you. Unfortunately, in December 2008, I was forced to answer a question I hope no other Dad ever hears: "Dad, what is hospice?" AJ left us on January 5, 2008.

But as promised, we fight back. I, along with an incredible young woman who has survived childhood cancer, have founded People Against Childhood Cancer, or PAC2 (www.curechildhood-cancer.ning.com). In four months we are over 3,000 strong and will never stop on behalf of the children we love. We seek ways to increase funding for this horrible elephant in the room that America refuses to acknowledge.

The NCI and the American Cancer Society direct less than 3% of all funding to childhood cancer. Last year, a huge victory for the childhood cancer community was the Carolyn Price Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, allocating \$25 million for the next five years for childhood cancer research. In today's world of billions and trillions, much of it going to those that barely deserve it,

I again have to be ashamed.

We are not protecting the youngest and most innocent of our society to the best of our abilities. You have the power to directly fund more research in your budget. Please consider including a major line item in your budget to fund research to save our children. We are sure Malia Ann and Natasha would approve.

Sincerely,

Bob Piniewski and Lori Keith
Founders - People Against Childhood Cancer
-- AJs Dad