[Your full address]

[Your postcode]

[Date]

Dear [your local MPs name]

My name is [your name] and I am a voter who lives in your constituency. I am writing to you about the ongoing campaign by Solving Kids’ Cancer UK in partnership with the Daily Express[[1]](#footnote-1), urging the UK government to fund clinical trials in children’s cancers, starting with a vaccine trial for children with high-risk neuroblastoma.

Neuroblastoma is an aggressive childhood cancer that affects around 100 children in the UK every year. Half of those diagnosed have high-risk disease, which has one of the harshest and most intensive treatment courses of any cancer. Despite this, the chance of survival for high-risk neuroblastoma is 50/50, and many children go on to have a relapse of their cancer later on.

A relapse is the worst fear for families after treatment ends as prognosis at this stage is extremely poor, with only a 1 in 10 chance of survival. For this devastating reason, families often explore additional maintenance therapies that may help to prevent relapse after their child has completed standard therapy. The Bivalent Vaccine is an experimental maintenance therapy for high-risk neuroblastoma that is currently only being studied in a trial at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York. Many families in the UK choose to access this trial as a potentially life-saving intervention for their child. To do so they must raise hundreds of thousands of pounds whilst their child goes through the gruelling frontline treatment.

No family should have to face the additional burden of having to raise extraordinary sums of money to access an experimental therapy abroad, yet many feel compelled to do so in an effort to save the life of their child. The UK government has an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership by investing and helping to facilitate international clinical trials for childhood cancers like neuroblastoma to remove this emotional and financial burden from families who are already experiencing so much hardship.

I am urging you to support their call for the UK to fund and lead Europe in an international clinical trial of the bivalent vaccine, starting with an initial meeting with Health Secretary Steve Barclay. Investment in this important trial will not only benefit this severely underserved community, but also serve as a blueprint for other government funded clinical trials in other ultra-rare and deadly childhood cancers. I believe that an open and honest conversation between the Health Minister and families from the childhood cancer community will be an important and productive step in moving this forward.

Thank you for your help and support. I look forward to your response outlining the ways you intend to address this issue on my behalf. If you’re unable to address this personally, I would request that you escalate my letter to the relevant Minister or department.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

1. https://www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/news/solving-kids-cancer-uk-partners-with-daily-express [↑](#footnote-ref-1)