



# Christian's Cause

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*Story Created: Feb 12, 2008 at 8:25 PM EST*

It's feeding time at the waggle household. And for two-year old Christian that consists of injecting three scoops of Elecare formula into his feeding tube.

Christian suffers from two debilitating digestive disorders, which attack Christian's stomach and esophagus, making it hard for him to a healthy weight.

"Its just a normal thing for us now. It's sad that everyday you wake up and you don't know where you will end up. If you are going to end up at home, in the emergency room or in the hospital," said Porscha Waggle, Christian's mother.

His insurance Blue Cross/Blue Shield covered all of his medical costs this past year, including 15 week-long stays at the hospital, 20 emergency room visits and more than 20 doctor appointments. But the one thing his insurance denies covering is the one thing that's keeping him alive--his formula.

The formula called Elecare costs 15 hundred dollars a month and it's putting the single mother of two on the brink of welfare. It's a financial situation Porscha refuses to accept for her family.

"I want to show them you don't need to get help from the government and you can do it on your own. I don't want to rely on someone else to provide my needs," said Porscha.

Porscha took her case to Kansas House Legislature. With the help of Representative Lana Gordon, a mandate for all insurance companies to cover formula costs is on the table.

Representative Lana Gordon said ,"I really feel like children like this should have the assistance of their insurance company for something their doctor prescribed that he needs to survive."

For now Christian is living off of donated cans from the Elecare company and with the help of his mother, he's taking it one day at a time.

Porscha said, "It's hard because I know different for Christian. I know what a child's normal life is suppose to be like. But for Christian, he knows no different than doctor appointments and hospital stays and surgeries."

Blue Cross/Blue Shield said they can't cover Elecare because food items like formulas are not a part of their policy.

The insurance company also said,"We certainly sympathize with our members who need non-covered services. But they need to understand that the cost of their premium is based on what is covered in their contract. To expect more would be to expect something for which they did not pay." Christian's bill is currently in a house committee. Representative Lana Gordon said she hopes the bill will have a hearing in a couple of weeks.

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