

## **Ryan's Story**

Jennifer's son Ryan is 8 years old. He was born at 25 weeks and spent his first 7 months in the NICU. He had a hard time coming off oxygen and had pulmonary hypertension secondary to his chronic lung disease. He has grown out of his lung issues and came off oxygen at the age of 3. His remaining disabilities are: deafness, visual impairment, I/DD, and he was recently diagnosed with autism. Jennifer's biggest fear as a parent is that if Ryan were to contract COVID-19 he could be one of the patients who would require a ventilator based on his past history of lung issues. Jennifer fears that, because of his high needs and the fact that he's non-verbal and has multiple disabilities, Ryan would be excluded from life-saving measures. Ryan is an eight-year-old child with his entire life ahead of him, and just knowing as a mother that there is a policy in place that might require her to take Ryan home to watch him die has increased Jennifer's anxiety to a level that is inexplicable. Ryan already fought for 7 months in the NICU to come home and live his life with his family. Ryan should not be denied the proper medical treatment and chance to fight during this pandemic just because of his past medical history and disabilities.

*Jennifer Aprea available for comment. Personal contact information available upon request.*

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