

January 19th, 2025

To the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)

My name is Sheryl Loftis Souza and I live in the state of California.

Attached please find my family pedigree. It was developed by Dr Portnoy, UC Berkely in the late 1980's. BCM has been in my family for more than 5 generations. It has affected more than 25 of my relatives. My grandfather, brother, sons, nephews and numerous cousins. More have been born since this chart was developed. My family has and continues to be extremely affected by this debilitating mutation. I would like to add all my affected relatives to the signatures of Renata's letter. On their behalf, I am pleading for a cure for my loved ones. Thank you.

(Pedigree not reported here to protect privacy of family members)

I'm the mother of Ricky and Ryan, both of my sons are affected by BCM. My two amazing sons have struggled their entire life's being legally blind. Both my sons are highly intelligent and athletic. However, school for them was beyond difficult, they couldn't play sports, and their careers have been near impossible and quite limited. Now my oldest son's heartbreak continues with the birth of his two daughters with the BCM mutation. He will relive this nightmare with his grandsons. With a mother's love, I beg you to fund the cure.



I'm writing you also on behalf of my brother. It has been painful to watch him struggle his entire life with this debilitation. A cure for BCM would be beyond miraculous. Thank you.

