

Hello, my name is Mary Corcoran and I am fourteen years old; I have a little brother with Cystic Fibrosis named Will, he is 11 years old and is now in sixth grade. When my brother was first born in 1997 he never gained any weight, my entire family was very concerned about his health and mal-nourishment. My mother was trying to feed him as much as possible, and took him to the pediatrician daily to weigh him. After three long months of mal-nutrition, he was finally diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis in Yale New Haven Hospital. Because Will wasn't able to get the nourishment he needed Birth to Three had to come to our home for three years; it is a program for infants who need developmental help and is paid for by the state. All of the time spent with Birth to Three was just to help him regain his strength and meet milestones. Having newborn screening for Cystic Fibrosis will be very beneficial because then other families with CF children won't have to go through the same thing that we did. The only two states in the country that don't screen for CF are Texas and Connecticut, and according to The Journal of Pediatrics newborn screening is actually a cost-saving alternative. Starting treatments earlier will help the children with CF to maintain or improve lung function, increase life expectancy and reduce hospitalizations. This is important to me, thank you for taking the time to listen.