

Cook Children's Statement Regarding Patient Tinslee Lewis

Fort Worth, Texas (November 10, 2019) – Tinslee Lewis is a beautiful baby who has captured the hearts of many at Cook Children's since her premature birth nine months ago. She was born with a rare heart defect called an Ebstein's anomaly and has undergone several complex surgeries at Cook Children's in an effort to improve her heart function. Further complicating matters, she also suffers from chronic lung disease and severe chronic pulmonary hypertension. Due to these complications, she has spent her entire life hospitalized in Cook Children's intensive care unit. She has required artificial respiratory support throughout that time, and has been consistently on a ventilator since July.

In the last several months, it's become apparent her health will never improve. Despite our best efforts, her condition is irreversible, meaning it will never be cured or eliminated. Without life-sustaining treatment, her condition is fatal. But more importantly, her physicians believe she is suffering.

To maintain the delicate balance necessary to sustain Tinslee's life, and to prevent her from pulling out the lines that are connected to the ventilator, doctors have had to keep her constantly paralyzed and sedated. While Tinslee may sometimes appear alert and moving, her movements are the result of being weaned off of the paralyzing drugs. We believe Tinslee is reacting in pain when she's not sedated and paralyzed.

Cook Children's has made heroic efforts to treat Tinslee's condition, all while being very transparent with her family regarding her poor prognosis. Despite those extraordinary efforts, Tinslee's condition has not improved. At the request of Tinslee's family, we have reached out to nearly 20 facilities across the country to see if any would be willing to accept Tinslee as a patient. Some of the facilities include:

- Texas Children's
- Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
- Dell Children's
- Dallas Children's
- Medical City Dallas
- Children's Medical Center Oklahoma City
- Children's Hospital of Atlanta
- St. Louis Children's
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Johns Hopkins
- Methodist Hospital San Antonio
- University Hospital San Antonio
- Boston Children's
- Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
- Arkansas Children's
- C.S. Mott Children's Michigan
- LeBonheur Children's Memphis
- Rady Children's
- Children's Hospital San Antonio CHRISTUS

All have said our assessment is correct and they feel there is nothing more they can provide to help improve this precious child's life.

A team of Cook Children's doctors, nurses and staff have given their all to help Tinslee. While we believe every child's life is sacred, we also believe that no child should be sentenced to a life of pain. Removing this beautiful child from mechanical ventilation is a gut-wrenching decision for Cook Children's physicians and staff, however we feel it is in her best interest to free her from artificial, medical intervention and suffering.

*Winifred King
Assistant Vice President of Public Relations
Cook Children's Health Care System*

About Cook Children's

Cook Children's Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we're proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

Our not-for-profit organization encompasses nine companies – a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes Child Study Center at Cook Children's, Cook Children's Health Services Inc., and Cook Children's Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet their unique needs.

We've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties for more than 100 years. Based on the exceptional care we provide, patients travel to Cook Children's from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care built on leading technology, extraordinary collaboration and the art of caring.

For more information, visit cookchildrens.org.

###