

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor and a privilege to be able to share my experience illustrating some of the faults in our healthcare system and my thoughts from that experience.

My wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2017. Fortunately, it was caught early, and she is doing well. On this year-long journey, she had 4 chemo treatments 3 weeks apart and 6 weeks of radiation treatment five days per week.

My concern is about the protocol used for chemotherapy which included Neulasta to stimulate blood cell production. The first treatment included a dose of Neulasta the following day. It caused much pain and discomfort and was very expensive, thousands of dollars of which we had to pay \$800 out-of-pocket despite our Medicare Advantage plan.

She and I visited her doctors twice that week to see about controlling the pain better. Nothing they did helped. She said she would not continue the chemo treatments with such pain, so the oncologist suggested continuing without the Neulasta but would have her blood count checked weekly until the next treatment was due. The blood counts were good. It seems that the Neulasta was unnecessary in her case.

I am really upset that she was put through the pain at great expense for something that was not needed. Why couldn't they have monitored her blood count before they prescribed Neulasta?

I think this points to the lack of communications, empathy and concern about cost by providers for patients and the power and possible corruption on the part of drug companies and their influence on doctors to use their drugs.

Here we are past April 15, 2018 and because of the medical expense to us in 2017, we received a tax refund for thousands of dollars, paying just over \$100. Because of our profits-first, patients-be-damned sick-care non-system, our tax refund was nice, but it could have filled a lot of potholes and such had the treasury been able to keep it. Healthcare costs have so many hidden negative impacts to our communities in public budgets at every level.

Our healthcare is in critical condition. It is all about money in politics, corporate personhood, money as speech and the power derived from it to cheat taxpayers and patients. That is why I am here to ask you to pass HB 440 to help Ohioans get the care they need when they need it, for as long as they need it without fear of cost or anxiety about lasting debt. Passing this bill will give us new freedoms to be healthier, more productive and more competitive on the world stage. I believe you owe it to your constituents to allow Ohio to show the other states just how beneficial universal, single payer healthcare can be on the way to Improved Medicare for All. We've been a rust belt state too long. Passing this bill would give our economy the boost it sorely needs.

Respectfully submitted,

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