

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center for Government
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 466-8100

Fax: (614) 719-0005

Email: Rep77@ohiohouse.gov

Website: www.ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Ways and Means, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources
Aging and Long Term Care

Special Appointments

Tax Expenditure Review Committee
Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study
Commission, Co-Chair
Study Committee on Receivership Laws

Tim Schaffer
State Representative, 77th House District

House State and Local Government Committee
House Bill 651—Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday June 13, 2018

Chairman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 651.

House Bill 651 will bring awareness to a deadly and aggressive form of cancer, known as Sarcoma. This bill will designate July as Hank Kabel Sarcoma Awareness Month. This legislation was crafted in response to my constituent, Amy Kabel, who lost her dog, Hank, to Sarcoma. Hank Kabel was diagnosed with an intrapelvic soft tissue sarcoma on February 1, 2013. Although Hank fought the cancer for over twenty months with radiation treatments and surgery, he unfortunately passed away.

After his death, Amy became a champion for this specific type of cancer. She founded the Hank Kabel Foundation to raise awareness and funds for canine cancer and Sarcoma, in hopes that finding a cure for canine cancer will also lead to a cure for humans.

Sarcoma is a general term that describes a group of cancers that arise in the bone or soft tissues of the body. According to the American Cancer Society, about 13,040 new soft tissue sarcomas will be diagnosed in 2018 and approximately 5,150 Americans are expected to die of this cancer. Sarcoma accounts for 1% of cancer in adults and 15-20% of cancers in children. Surprisingly, dogs are five times more likely than humans to be diagnosed with Sarcoma. Approximately one in three dogs will be diagnosed with this cancer in their lifetime and 50% will die from this disease. Although this statistic is heartbreaking for our four legged friends, it does motivate us to search for a cure.

Medical research has shown that dogs and cats make good models that parallel human disease because cancer develops, grows, and responds to treatment in humans similarly; dogs and humans are 85% genetically identical. Finding successful treatments for dogs may lead to a cure for humans who have Sarcoma.

When thinking about cancer testing on animals your first thought may be of inhumane treatment of animals; however, this bill has nothing to do with that and does not advocate cruel animal testing. It is about finding a cure for our companions, which will ultimately lead to a cure for our children and adults. Veterinarians are studying dogs who have naturally occurring cancers. Like humans, dogs are equally susceptible to the same environmental risks.

Although this bill is not the answer to finding a cure for Sarcoma, it is a great first step. This bill will provide awareness to those that are not familiar with how this disease affects

both dogs and humans alike. If this awareness month is able to positively impact one Ohioan's life then it will be completely worth it.

Thank you once again, Chairman Anielski, and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be pleased to answer any questions that the committee may have.