



State Senator William P. Coley II
Senate Bill 77 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee
April 5, 2017

Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, thank you the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 77. Senate Bill 77 creates the KylerStrong Foundation license plate to support advocacy and research.

Some of you may remember a floor speech I gave last April in memory of one of my constituents, Kyler Bradley. My wife, Carolyn, and I met Kyler and his family after he was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) brain cancer in the fall of 2015. During Kyler's journey, I came to know about the horrible affects this disease has on children and their loved ones. We did all we could to help Kyler and his family during his courageous fight, and were overcome with grief when he passed away in April.

Following this tragedy, Kyler's family created the KylerStrong Foundation, a volunteer-powered organization that is dedicated to raising awareness and funding promising research to find cures, cause, and prevention of DIPG brain cancer. DIPG is an inoperable, incurable brainstem cancer that primarily affects children. In the United States, brain tumors are the leading cause of death for children with cancer. Research funds are low for DIPG and there is currently no long term effective treatment strategy among physicians.

The KylerStrong Foundation license plate will support the Foundation in their efforts to increase awareness and research funds to find the cure for DIPG to prevent other children like Kyler from suffering.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 77. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.