

March 31, 2019

The Honorable Tom Brinkman, Jr.
Chairman
Ohio House Insurance Committee
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Brinkman, Ranking Member Boggs, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 41.

My name is Matthew Scroggy. I am a Pharmacist at the Ohio State University and a Kidney Transplant recipient from a living organ donor.

In February 2009, I was in my first year of the Ohio State University's Doctor of Pharmacy Program. I awoke one night with a sudden onset of troubling symptoms and took myself to the emergency department. Within days I was diagnosed with a disease called IgA Nephropathy and was told I was in renal failure with only 10% function remaining in my kidneys.

This came as a complete shock as I was a healthy 22-year old with no previous history of kidney disease, no family history of kidney disease, and took no medications. After learning about my renal failure, I was mostly the same person as before except now I took 29 pills a day and had a future that was more uncertain than ever.

Less than 6 months after being told I was in renal failure, on July 28, 2009, I received my kidney transplant at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

I was able to make it through the rest of my first year of pharmacy school and graduate on time in the spring of 2012 with the class I started my program with. I have run 12 half-marathons and countless other races. I have won medals representing Team Ohio at the U.S. Transplant Games. I now work my dream job at the medical center where I was given a second chance at life.

I have lived these past nine-and-a-half years to the fullest extent imaginable. It was because of my living donor, my older sister Sarah, that any of this is possible.

Living donation is vitally important to the transplant community because there are better clinical outcomes when someone avoids dialysis. People are able to maintain their life and not be attached to a dialysis machine 3 times a week. I was incredibly fortunate, as I never had to be on dialysis. There is no way this would have been the case without my sister and without the gift of living organ donation.

My sister was incredibly fortunate as her employer gave her time off with the promise of maintaining the position she previously held once she was medically

cleared to return to work. This made her decision to donate a simple one. However, fears about continued employment or the ability to obtain life insurance, disability insurance, or long-term care insurance policies should not be barriers to organ donation. House Bill 41 alleviates one of those barriers.

On behalf of my sister and all living organ donors, current and future, in the state of Ohio, I strongly encourage the passage of House Bill 41. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important bill. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Matthew Scroggy, PharmD