

## Testimony HB390

Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani, my own state Representative, Ranking Member Boggs, and Members of the House Insurance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Kathryn Poe and I am an undergraduate student at Capital University. I am also a non-related donor bone marrow transplant survivor, and I am here on behalf of other bone marrow and cellular therapy patients like myself as a strong supporter of HB390, the Pre-Existing Conditions Protection Act.

When I was 15, I was diagnosed with three life-threatening autoimmune conditions that would likely have killed me in my early 20s. Then, when I was 20, I was given the opportunity to receive a bone marrow transplant at Nationwide Children's in July of 2018. It changed my life and I am forever thankful to my donor, Jeremy Carnes.

But the reality is that I am now a 22-year-old woman without a normal immune system. I am a woman with 7 years of high-cost medical history. And I will carry the effects of chemotherapy, thirteen hospital admissions, and physical disability for the rest of my life. And without protection and on-going proper medical care, the thousands of hours of work of my transplant team, the 19 specialists that worked on my case, and the selfless gift of life from my donor will all be in vain.

The purpose of medicine is to give people like me a chance at life, but I cannot live the new life I have been given without protection and access to health insurance.

But with the implementation of HB390, this does not have to be the case. This law simply codifies the best parts of the ACA into law in the State of Ohio, protections such as the ACA's ban of annual and lifetime limits and the ACA's ban on preexisting condition exclusions. These provisions already work for our state. By codifying the best parts of the law into Ohio law as well, we are giving the people of Ohio the state-level protection they deserve.

Because of my lack of immune system, I can quite literally risk my life to sit before you today because without these protections my life is in even more jeopardy.

There was a time in my life when I believed that I would die before obtaining my college degree. Now, I have hope for the first time that I will. By voting to support this bill, you are protecting people like me and ensuring that I will do the impossible and make it graduation day.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.