



House Bill 230 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me to be here today to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 230, which would designate the month of May as Brain Cancer Awareness Month in the state of Ohio. My name is Gene Barnett, and I am Director of the Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center at the Cleveland Clinic.

In my role, I work closely with patients affected by brain cancer. I follow them from the time of their initial consult to our center, throughout the entirety of their care. Our goal for treatment is to provide a quality of life that patients themselves feel is livable, so that they are once again in control of their lives.

More than one million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year. Nearly 25% of these individuals will develop metastatic brain tumors during the course of their illnesses. Though the number of patients with primary brain tumors is smaller, there is evidence that the incidence of these kinds of brain tumors is rising.

Cleveland Clinic's Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center serves patients from across the country and around the world. Our specialists, working in partnership with specialists from the Taussig Cancer Institute, offer a full range of advanced treatment options for adults and children with spinal cord and brain tumors, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and radiosurgery, and innovative brain tumor clinical trials.

Cleveland Clinic physicians, surgeons, nurses and researchers work as a team, dedicating their lives to treating people with brain tumors. Our researchers are on the cutting edge to determine the mechanisms by which brain tumors occur and the best way to treat them with a minimum of side effects. Physicians not only strive to find and use the best combination of current treatments for each patient, but, in collaboration with our researchers, they are actively developing new treatments.

The goal is to give our patients hope for improved quality of life through the treatment of brain tumors, while moving forward toward a cure. The Cleveland Clinic Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center is a fine combination of research and clinical care: a team working together to offer the best science and technology can offer for brain tumors, one patient at a time.

While there have been great strides made in the research of this disease, critical funding gaps remain. House Bill 230 will bring us one step closer to these goals by having brain cancer spotlighted for at least one month out of the year. The designation of Brain Cancer Awareness



Month will bring statewide attention to this disease, and put Ohio on the forefront of bringing needed recognition and attention to this disease. We thank the sponsor Representative Crossman for introducing this bill and working with the Cleveland Clinic along the way.

Again, Cleveland Clinic supports House Bill 230 and urges the committee to be supportive as well. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.