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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 364, which would designate February 13 as Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day.

An aortic aneurysm is an abnormal enlargement or bulging of the wall of the aorta. Aortic aneurysms have an incidence of 5-10 cases per 100,000 people in the United States. Early diagnosis of an aneurysm is critical to managing the condition and reducing the risk of rupture. Risk factors include tobacco use, age, high blood pressure, gender, and family history.

As Ohioans, we are fortunate to have the best heart care here in Ohio. Cleveland Clinic's Heart and Vascular Institute has ranked No. 1 for 25 years. Since 1995, no hospital in the country has ranked higher than Cleveland Clinic in cardiac care. The Cleveland Clinic regularly provides one on one screenings for patients and their families who has a history of aorta disease. These screenings are important to raise awareness and inform people of any abnormalities.

It is important to raise awareness about aortic aneurysms. When an aortic aneurysm **ruptures**, treatment is more difficult. Knowing the available resources and how to access them is crucial for patients.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.