



**American
Heart
Association.**

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SB 302 - Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services
& Medicaid Committee

Good afternoon, and thank you for the chance to weigh in on SB 302 (Sens. Antonio and Eklund), legislation that would create transport protocols for stroke patients in Ohio to ensure they are being transported to the properly designated Stroke Center. I would be there to provide this testimony in person, but the American Heart Association has cautioned its employees against doing so at this time. The American Heart Association supports ensuring patients receive the proper care during this time-sensitive crisis, however, to ensure they are receiving the proper care, and the process is held accountable, we would recommend that the bill be amended to include a Stroke Registry for Ohio's stroke patients.

Troublingly, during this COVID-19 crisis, we have seen an unusual uptick in stroke cases. The unknown is WHY we are seeing this increase. Some doctors believe there is a connection between this virus and the causes of a stroke. Because more research is necessary, we cannot explicitly say they are connected but we do know that the number of stroke patients, and the severity of them, has gone up during this time, making the case for this legislation evident.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-doctors-covid-.html>

SUMMARY - A Stroke Registry is a necessary, statewide collection of data regarding any stroke patient in an ODH-recognized Comprehensive Stroke Center, Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center, Primary Stroke Center, or Acute Ready Hospital that attained supplementary levels of distinction. The Registry will provide protected data confirming that steps are being taken to care for stroke patients properly & swiftly.

The goal of this proposed amendment is to improve care and save lives, which will also save on Medicaid & private insurance rehabilitation dollars. Over 6,000 stroke patients die every year in Ohio, making it the 5th highest cause of death for Ohioans.

While we certainly support the language as drafted, we also ask that this committee consider supporting the addition of this amendment to SB 302. We believe taking the steps now to ensure proper care is administered will help these patients receive the care and rehabilitation to fully recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration.