



Statement in support of Representative Jim Butler's CURE bill, HB345

As co-founder of Dayton, Ohio's Gala of Hope Foundation, I am honored to offer our support for HB 345, the Cure Bill.

The Gala of Hope Foundation was formed in 2014. After many years of raising over one million dollars for well-known National cancer organizations, my husband, Bob, and I grew tired of seeing those funds leave our community and serve mostly to support the cancer organizations themselves.

Since 2014, the Gala of Hope has returned more than \$1million to support cancer patients and families, their caregivers, and to fund lifesaving research in the Dayton region. We have touched some 13,000 families.

But we are incredibly anxious to support any and all efforts that are working for a CURE...not just a treatment....for cancer. This horrible disease has ravaged too many of our families and friends. It has taken an indescribable toll on young and old and in between. It has no discriminating boundaries: not age, race, creed, or gender.

According to the National Institute of Health's National Cancer Institute's website\*:

- Cancer is among the leading causes of death worldwide. In 2012, there were 14 million new cases and 8.2 million cancer-related deaths worldwide.
- The number of new cancer cases will rise to 22 million within the next two decades.
- In 2016, an estimated 1,685,210 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 595,690 people will die from the disease

While I don't know how close we actually came to cancer deaths in 2016, I do know that 595,690 are far too many moms and dads who had to bury their children. Too many who had to bury their moms or dads or grandparents or

aunts or uncles or best friends. There aren't enough fundraisers or philanthropic humans to combat this deadly, growing toll.

How thrilled we are that one of the Dayton region's own elected officials, Jim Butler, has come up with a unique, never-tried-before way to incentivize the private sector to participate in the solution to cure diseases in HB 345. At no cost to the taxpayer. We applaud his effort and trust the Ohio Legislature will get behind this bill.

While we recognize the Cure Bill is not deemed for cancer only. But we are happy to support any attempt aimed at curing diseases and hope that a cancer cure is one of the first to be awarded a prize from the Compact.

The last disease, for which a cure was found, was polio through a vaccine developed by Jonas Salk in 1955.

It is our fervent hope, that with the passage of HB 345, it won't be another 63 years before we find another cure for a deadly disease.

In the meantime, we'll continue to do what we know how to do and that is to care for cancer patients, doctors, nurses, researchers and all those who love them, in our own community.....we'll keep fighting to change the face of cancer in the Dayton region.

\*[www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics](http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics)

Respectfully submitted,  
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