



180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

[ohiohealth.com](http://ohiohealth.com)

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Stephen Huffman  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Huffman,

On behalf of OhioHealth, I ask for your support and to vote yes on HB 464, the stroke bill, in the House Health Committee.

I currently serve as the Vice President of Neuroscience at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. My colleague, Dr. William Hicks, has previously submitted testimony in support of HB 464. I wanted to reiterate for you a few statistics regarding stroke previously shared by Dr. Hicks:

- *Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in the U.S.*
- *On average, someone in the U.S. has a stroke every 40 seconds. And, every 4 minutes, stroke takes the life of someone's spouse, partner, parent, child, or friend.*
- *The national economic impact of stroke is estimated to be nearly \$33 billion annually in health care costs and losses from disability or death. In Ohio, costs are estimated at \$2.5 billion each year.*
- *Most recent AHA/ASA Guidelines for Stroke offer Class I evidence recommending the following:*
  - *Certification of stroke centers by an independent external body is strongly recommended,*
  - *EMS leaders, in conjunction with local/regional/state agencies and in consultation with medical authorities, should develop triage protocols so patients are rapidly identified for stroke symptoms,*

HB 464 recognizes the three tiers of stroke facilities including comprehensive, primary and acute-stroke ready hospitals. The bill also requires all EMS authorities statewide to establish pre-hospital transport protocols related to the assessment, treatment and transport of stroke patients by licensed EMS providers.

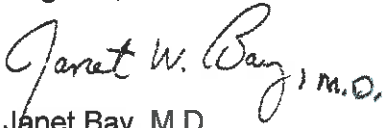
Passing stroke facility recognition legislation will not require any Ohio hospital or center to seek or change their accreditation for stroke care. Certification is completely voluntary. The bill will also not require the Ohio Department of Health to survey hospitals regarding stroke care.

**A FAITH-BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

RIVERSIDE METHODIST HOSPITAL + GRANT MEDICAL CENTER + DOCTORS HOSPITAL + GRADY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
DUBLIN METHODIST HOSPITAL + DOCTORS HOSPITAL-NELSONVILLE + HARDIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL + REHABILITATION HOSPITAL + O'BLENESS HOSPITAL + MEDCENTRAL MANSFIELD HOSPITAL  
MEDCENTRAL SHELBY HOSPITAL + WESTERVILLE MEDICAL CAMPUS + HEALTH AND SURGERY CENTERS + PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE  
URGENT CARE + WELLNESS + HOSPICE + HOME CARE + 28,000 PHYSICIANS, ASSOCIATES & VOLUNTEERS

We are keenly vested in ensuring the best health outcomes for all Ohio residents regarding stroke care. Thank you for your consideration of this important health care issue.

Regards,

  
Janet Bay, M.D.

Cc: Members of the House Health Committee