

Annie Cacciato
3691 Gale Rd
Granville, OH 43023
(740) 403-1563
anniecacciato@gmail.com
<https://bluebeautifulskies.org/>
breathofhopeohio.org

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Written Testimony of Annie Cacciato
In Opposition to R.C. 3723.081/HB 166
To the Ohio Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid

I respectfully ask for you to hear me and understand that Ohioans like me are and will be the collateral damage if you vote to reduce or remove the radon mitigation supervision requirements for the state of Ohio. Radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer in Ohio and it is 100% preventable! The indoor air quality in Ohio homes, schools and workplaces is very likely filled with unsafe lung cancer causing radon. This includes where you and your family spend time. We need to work together to inform, educate and encourage radon testing and effective mitigation.

Radon induced lung cancer like mine can be eliminated in Ohio with quality testing and mitigation. But if you remove the quality control standards of supervision without adding another quality control mechanism like state building code inspections at each step of the installation, you will be responsible for Ohioans getting lung cancer from radon and wasting their money on a radon system that likely doesn't work properly.

As a resident of Licking County, which reports some of the highest radon levels in the State of Ohio, I believe your leadership should be focused on whether this proposed change improves the lives of Ohioans or does it put real lives at risk? As a real person with Stage 4 lung cancer from radon at my high school and at my workplace, you will not only put lives at risk, but you will with full knowledge be poisoning real children, moms and dads with toxic radon gas. Ohioans that take action to remove radon are not choosing to have poor quality standards that will result in more DNA damage in the lungs of their family, you are making that decision. What do you want for your family? Would you sign up for voluntary DNA damage that leads to cancer for your children? Then don't volunteer mine and all Ohio families either!

I am unable to testify in person. Because of radon exposure in Ohio, my full-time job is fighting for my life from lung cancer. I wrote opposing testimony for the House Finance committee as I waited for my CT Scan at the OSUCCC-The James to see how much my cancer had grown and if my medicine is still working. Unfortunately, because I was unable to submit a witness slip from the hospital, it was not considered by the committee.

I plead with you to make the right choice and do more to educate and protect Ohioans from radon, not less. This is one of the most important life and death votes you will make, and I am praying for each of you.

I welcome any and all members of the committee to contact me if you would like to learn more about radon and ending this unnecessary and preventable public health crisis in Ohio.

Respectfully,

Annie Cacciato