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SPONSOR TESTIMONY
SENATE BILL 174
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 174, legislation that seeks to Designate September 7 as Ohio Grateful Patient Day.

National Grateful Patient Day on September 7 provides an opportunity to show appreciation for the hard working professionals in the medical industry as well as the families/caregivers of anyone receiving life-giving medical care. It also honors the indomitable spirit of these courageous patients who are grateful to be alive.

This day designation was developed by former NFL player, Rolf Benirschke, who faced a battle on the field every Sunday. But more importantly, he fought his own personal battle with ulcerative colitis, ostomy surgery, and Hepatitis C—from his numerous blood transfusions—that nearly cost him his life. He emerged as a grateful patient, dedicated his life to patient advocacy, and became passionate about encouraging research and innovation related to future therapies.

September 7, 1980, was Rolf's improbable and nearly impossible comeback to the NFL after his illness. His two field goals and four extra points contributed to the Chargers 34-13 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

The Registrar at National Day Calendar proclaimed Grateful Patient Day to be observed annually on September 7 beginning in 2017. There are over 1,500 national days currently established.¹

Chairman Burke and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 174. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

¹ <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-grateful-patient-day-september-7/>