

# The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

March 2, 2021

**Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill #43 – Hank’s Law**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Senate Bill #43, Hank’s Law, where the intent is to designate one calendar month annually as “Sarcoma Awareness Month”. Sarcoma is a very rare form of cancer that occurs in connective tissues such as bone, muscle, tendon, cartilage, nerve sheath, and blood vessels. This group of rare cancers encompasses approximately one percent of cancers in humans and ten percent of tumors in dogs. Available treatments are comprised of chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and radical surgery that often lead to serious quality of life issues in the post-operative surveillance period.

Increased awareness is needed since there have been no essentially new forms of therapy introduced since the late 1970s. Without treatment advances, the overall survival for sarcoma remains under fifty percent at five years. Dogs have an increased prevalence of sarcoma and therefore represent an outstanding model to study human sarcoma disease. As such, new therapies can be rapidly moved from the laboratory bench into clinical trials, and collaborations between faculty at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine have made important progress in understanding the cancer biology of both canine and human patients needed as we develop new therapies relevant to both dogs and humans. Passage of Senate Bill #43 will increase public awareness of the imperative to develop new therapies for this all too often lethal human and canine form of cancer. I appreciate the opportunity to bring these realities to your attention and ask for your vote to pass Senate Bill #43 into law.

Sincerely,

Valerie Grignol  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Division of Surgical Oncology  
Ohio State University  
N924 Doan Hall  
410 W. 10th Ave  
Columbus OH 43210  
Office: 614-293-0758

