
Beth Norton

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February 6, 2022

**Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes,
Ranking Members of the Ohio House Health Committee**

Dear Chairman Lipps et al,

I am writing to add my testimony in support of the Mold Bill. Twelve years ago, after many unexplained illnesses in our family, we discovered that we had mold in our home. We suspected something was wrong with our house as some symptoms would disappear after a few days away from home. But, without fail, upon our return, all the symptoms would return.

Symptoms included extreme tiredness, chronic infections, recurring sinus infections, dizziness, headaches, joint pain, difficulty concentrating, difficulty sleeping, and heightened anxiety.

It took many tries to find a reputable firm to help us remediate the mold. And then it was done incompletely and incorrectly. Who knew that bleach is not appropriate to use on mold - it can cause spread. Our remediator did not know this either. We trashed most of our belongings, replaced the windows and roofs, and completely redid the HVAC system. Six years and hundreds of thousands of dollars later our house passed a rigorous mold test. (Our house always passed the Real Estate test as that test is wildly ineffective). It took many more years to reclaim our health as mold toxins are hard to remove from the body - impossible with some people.

What we wish for looking back is that:

- (1) The Real Estate test would have caught the problem before we bought the house. This would have made every difference in our lives.
- (2) Mold Remediators were educated and properly licensed.
- (3) Mold Illness was recognized by traditional medicine.

(4) Mold treatments were covered by insurance.

My hope is that Ohio can lead the pack in creating a Mold Bill that protects homebuyers and their families from purchasing homes that are secretly moldy (it is usually not obvious at all). And that those who are currently facing a mold crisis in their homes can find the effective help they need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Beth Norton