

Re: Support for HB 251, The Ohio Indoor Safe Air Act

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and distinguished members of the Ohio House Health Committee:

My name is Kimberly Chappo, and I am writing in support of HB 251, The Ohio Indoor Safe Air Act.

I am the proud Mother of Brandon Chappo, the young man who has relentlessly championed HB 251.

My journey (along with Brandon's other family members and friends), likewise started in August 2019, when Brandon's health began to decline unexpectedly and rapidly. Prior to that time, Brandon was a young man who was bright and articulate, witty, physically active, and mentally engaged. He played music, traveled the world, and had mapped out a life with solid career and family plans. Then everything changed. For all of us. Because mold related illness doesn't impact just the sufferer.

For all of us it was a period of great stress and strife as we desperately tried to support Brandon (many of us from different states) as his health spiraled downward. At the same time, we, too, were spending large amounts of time on the internet and reaching out to others to try to figure out what was causing the sudden change in health. Early on, we relied heavily on the mainstream medical community for their knowledge and guidance. Regrettably, due to their lack of awareness and proper knowledge regarding environmentally acquired illness, Brandon's diagnosis remained a mystery for nearly a year. In the end, Dr. Alice Prescott Sullivan (a physician in Functional Medicine) at The Cleveland Clinic was able to verify that exposure to dangerous levels of mold and mycotoxins from the water damaged home rental in Cleveland was the prime suspect.

Brandon was lucky. He had family and friends who supported him and were able to provide him with alternative housing as he began the long and winding road to detoxing. Far too many are not so lucky and go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed and are left to suffer silently as their lives shatter around them.

Brandon could have chosen to simply move and move on as he healed. But he has chosen, instead, to dedicate himself tirelessly to bring about the necessary and needed awareness to this issue of mold/mycotoxins resulting from water-damaged/damp spaces and the related ill-health effects exposure can cause.

There is much work to be done with raising awareness, not only in the public realm, but in our medical and building communities, real estate, insurance, remediation industries, and higher education degree programs. HB 251 is the first step which is often the hardest and the one that takes the most courage.

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member and Joint Sponsor Russo, and distinguished members of the Ohio House Health Committee, as a former proud Ohioan for 42 years and the immensely proud Mother of Brandon Chappo, I ask for your help and support for HB 251, The Ohio Indoor Safe Air Act.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Chappo
2327 Riverside Drive · South Williamsport, PA ·17702