

Lissa Nilsson  
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October 11, 2021

**RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 251**

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

My name is Lissa Nilsson, and I am an advocate for toxic mold awareness.

I am a strong proponent of HB 251. There is a tremendous need for proper public education on the multiple health risks of toxic mold and water damaged buildings. People should have this knowledge readily available to be able to help themselves in times of need. This is vitally important, not only during a water intrusion crisis, but also so that preventative measures can become commonplace. As it stands, the information currently put forth by our government is woefully inadequate, rendering it a disservice to all.

This is an important issue to me personally because I am a survivor of a wretched toxic mold experience. My husband and I gradually lost our health -- without a clue as to why. Eventually, after discovering the source was due to multiple species of toxic mold hidden within the walls of our new home, we scrambled to educate ourselves from scratch. There was an incredible amount of misinformation to sift through. Yet it was imperative to find the right answers... and fast!

It's impossible to grasp the true extent of what we've been through, as I am sure any toxic mold survivor would tell you. Suffice it to say, we lost our health, and after a failed (professional) remediation -- our home, our beloved dream property, most of our belongings, and essentially - our place in the world. We've spent the last three years living full-time in an RV, traveling with the seasons to make do until we can start over again.

It seems outrageous that every person falling into this life-altering debacle of toxic mold damages should have to go through what we did. If the dangers of toxic mold were common knowledge, if the imperative information were readily available so the signs and symptoms could be recognized immediately, and if there were a real support system in place to help protect unwary consumers -- real progress will be made.

I look forward to that day, and therefore I urge you to pass HB 251.

Sincerely,

Lissa Nilsson