



Beth Liston MD PhD
State Representative

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, my joint sponsor Representative Schmidt and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 431, codifying Ohio's Stroke Registry. Stroke is the 5th leading cause of death in Ohio and a leading cause of disability. Over the last several decades treatment has advanced rapidly improving outcomes of patients with stroke. We now have tools like tissue plasminogen activator – tPA, known as a 'clot buster' and even endovascular thrombectomy which can specifically target a blood clot in a brain artery to improve outcomes. HB 431 aims to help ensure those suffering from a stroke can have access to these advanced therapies in a targeted and safe way.

In the 132nd GA HB 464, championed by our Chair Rep Lipps and current Senator Antonio, Ohio established hospital stroke care designations including Comprehensive, Primary and Acute stroke ready. This bill is a next step, requiring hospitals with such designations to participate in a stroke registry coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health, collecting quality and outcomes data with regards to stroke treatment based on national practice guidelines. This information helps centralize and inform care guiding both guide emergency medical service decisions and quality improvement programs to ensure the best possible stroke care in our state. Ohio currently collects this information as part of the federal Coverdell Stroke program. However, this program only continues through 2023. HB 431 allows the current registry to be used to satisfy the legislative requirements but ensures that the program will continue should the federal program end. Nationally, there is a growing movement to codify stroke registries, with 21 states passing similar legislation.

As many of you realize hospitals are very busy right now. One of the hidden challenges we are seeing is safe and timely transport of individuals to facilities that can offer appropriate levels of care for complex patient needs. Over the last several weeks I have seen patients wait for days for



a trained transportation team to be available to safely move someone between facilities. Different hospitals serve different populations and as such serve different purposes within the community. Every effort must be made to ensure that people are brought to the most appropriate hospital for their medical needs up front so they can receive the highest quality care for their condition. This is particularly true in the case of stroke where we know that minutes matter in terms of breaking down clots that prevent blood from getting to important brain cells. Stroke registries can help ensure Ohioans have access to life saving care in these emergencies and ensure that outcomes are continuously evaluated so that we know the best standards of care are being applied for people in our state.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to answer any questions that you have.