

**Good Morning Chairman Lipps and members of the Health Committee. My name is BethAnnEnnis, I am a wife to John, a mother to 4 beautiful children:Jeshua, Elijah, Mary Beth, and Elle June. I am a Mom, a daughter and a caregiver to my 92 year old mother. I am active in ministry at my local church and in my community of Reynoldsburg. I am a proud Ohio resident.**

**I am also battling Lung Cancer.**

**5 years ago, at age 48, what I thought was a strained muscle sent me to the ER where it was discovered that it was something more significantly serious. Nothing could have prepared my husband John and I to tell our four children that their mother had a mass growing in her lung that was cancerous.**

**I was moved quickly into surgery at The James Cancer Hospital to remove the mass and lobe in my lung, which was followed by extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatments. 6 months later my scans revealed there was no evidence of disease.**

**There was a critical moment before I went into surgery-**

***PAUSE***

**I was approached by an amazing pulmonary oncologist who asked permission to have a tissue sample of my tumor to perform biomarker testing for his research, and to extend my life.**

**My biomarker test results revealed that I had the ALK positive gene mutation. This mutation occurs in 5 percent of all lung cancer patients. Having this knowledge about myself was a blessing because there are 5 successful targeted therapies that exist right now to treat my type of cancer.**

**This past August, after 3 years of being declared “no evidence of disease” my cancer came back and I was diagnosed in stage 4 advanced. Now was the time to turn to one of the targeted therapies identified by my biomarker test. Within 8-12 weeks of being on this targeted therapy I had no evidence of disease.**

**There are so many benefits to being on a targeted therapy directed towards a specific gene mutation compared to traditional means of treating cancer:**

- I take my therapy orally. This allows me to be at home and not in a hospital receiving traditional chemotherapy and/or radiation with all of its horrific side effects.**
- The side effects are not as hard as traditional treatment on the body. I am active and productive in the lives of my family members, friends and community.**

- **It gives the gift of time. Unfortunately, you cannot go into remission when you have lung cancer but targeted therapy will hopefully allow me and other survivors to treat our lung cancer and other cancers as a chronic condition. It is giving us time in which we hope to see a cure.**

**Biomarker testing is not available to everyone. Without it, I would not have had access to the targeted therapy that saved my life.**

**I would not be here today.**

**Targeted therapy has given me the gift of celebrating my 25th wedding anniversary with my husband in Hawaii, seeing my 11 year old daughter perform in the nutcracker this past year and watching my senior daughter graduate from high school**

**last week. I plan to be around for many more milestones in the lives of my family members.**

**Every Ohioan should have access to this life saving resource.**

**Thank you Chairman Lipps and members of the Health Committee for your time today and listening to my story.**