



**House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Proponent testimony on Senate Bill 21
Guilherme Dabus, M.D.
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SB 21 – Regards emergency medical services and stroke patient protocols

Thank you, Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain and Ranking Member Sheehy for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 21. My name is Guilherme Dabus, M.D., and I am an interventional neuroradiologist at the Miami Neuroscience Institute – Baptist Hospital in Miami, FL. I also serve on the board of directors for the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS), an organization of highly trained neurointerventional surgeons who are committed to improving outcomes for stroke patients. I can attest to the importance of SB 21 in saving more lives.

Over the past five years, my SNIS colleagues and I have been dedicated to educating leaders and their constituents across the country about the importance of emergency triage and transport-destination protocols which align with the modern technology available today. As you have heard from my colleagues in Ohio, we have the ability today to save more lives and help prevent long-term disability among patients afflicted with severe cases of stroke such as Emergent Large Vessel Occlusion (ELVO), the deadliest form of ischemic stroke, thanks to advancements in medical innovation.

Despite the advancements in treatment to ensure the best outcomes for stroke patients, most states across the country have protocols in place which simply advise EMS to transport stroke patients, regardless of severity, to the nearest hospital – which is not always the best-equipped hospital for treating severe stroke like ELVO. This is where legislation such as SB21 will make a difference for these patients by empowering first responders to transport them directly to the best-equipped facilities the first time.

I am encouraged to see Ohio considering a similar path as Florida toward improving outcomes for stroke patients. The legislation that our legislature passed and that Governor DeSantis signed into law urged the medical directors of each licensed EMS provider in Florida to develop protocols for the assessment, treatment and transport of stroke patients and to specifically consider the capabilities of receiving facilities to improve outcomes for patients with a suspected ELVO. The legislation served as an important catalyst for getting patients suffering from severe strokes the care they need as quickly as possible.

My colleagues and I strongly believe that stroke patients deserve nothing less when it comes to the appropriate care that will not only save their lives but ensure they maintain a positive quality of life. Transporting patients with ELVO to the right facility as quickly as possible could mean the difference between being dependent on around-the-clock care for the rest of their lives versus going back to jobs they love and supporting their families. We already have systems of care in place to ensure timely, lifesaving care for trauma patients; let's work together in establishing a similar system for stroke patients.

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my support for SB 21. Thank you for your time and effort in considering this important legislation and helping to ensure the best possible outcomes for stroke patients.

Sincerely,

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