



**JEAN SCHMIDT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for HB 431, to establish a stroke registry in Ohio. Stroke is the fifth-leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability among Americans. In an effort to reduce the burden of stroke by improving the quality of care delivered to stroke patients, stroke registries have been developed to measure and track acute stroke care.

Ohio currently uses the Ohio Coverdell Stroke Program, a data-driven quality improvement program for stroke treatment that provides resources to emergency medical service providers, hospital stroke teams, and other healthcare providers to provide high quality stroke care to Ohioans. The program is funded by a CDC grant and is not always guaranteed. Although funding may be in place currently, there is no way

to know if the grant will continue to exist or if Ohio will be able to attain the grant in the future. By doing this legislation now, we can ensure that the Ohio Department of Health has the time necessary to utilize a stroke registry database and create one, if necessary, in the future.

This legislation will codify into the law Ohio's current use of a stroke registry and require designated stroke centers to participate in a statewide stroke registry. By doing so, care for stroke patients can be better administered and limit the effects of a stroke. The language of the legislation does not force the creation of a new, second registry, nor will it require stroke centers to do any additional work that they already do. The language ensures that hospitals can continue to utilize the Coverdell Stroke Program currently in place and require those few stroke centers that do not take part join in the data collection. We have worked diligently to ensure that this bill allows Ohio to have a sound stroke registry without increasing the burden of work or cost for stroke centers and doctors.

HB 431 was passed out of the House with an overwhelming amount of support. I believe it is a moral duty to improve the lives of all

Ohioans. This legislation will do that, but it will also save lives. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. I will now pass this along to Representative Liston to give her testimony. Thank you.