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HB 431 - Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health Committee

30 November 2022

Good morning and thank you for the chance to weigh in on HB 431 (Reps. Schmidt & Liston), legislation that would codify the current use of a statewide stroke registry and ensure proper care continues to be provided for all Ohioans who experienced a stroke. As an advocate for the American Heart Association, I believe that this bill will ensure patients receive the proper care during this time-sensitive crisis and to ensure they are receiving the proper care, and the process is held accountable, we would recommend that we put into statute the current utilization of a Stroke Registry for Ohio's stroke patients.

As Chair of the Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine at the UC College of Medicine and a member of the University of Cincinnati Stroke Team, I see firsthand the devastating effects that stroke has on patients and their families. When it comes to stroke, timely treatment is critical and can mean the difference between having life-long disability or making a full recovery. It can even mean the difference between life and death. I support HB 431 because I believe the registry will result in better outcomes for those touched by stroke and ultimately save lives.

A statewide Stroke Registry is a necessary collection of data regarding any stroke patient in an ODH-recognized Comprehensive, Thrombectomy-Capable, or Primary Stroke Centers that have attained supplementary levels of distinction. This Registry will provide protected data confirming that steps are being taken to care for stroke patients properly & swiftly.

The collective goal of this legislation is to continue to improve upon care and save lives. This will also save on Medicaid & private insurance rehabilitation dollars. Over 6,000 stroke patients die every year in Ohio, making it the 5th highest cause of death for Ohioans.

By providing hospitals with timely feedback on their stroke care performance, the stroke registry helps to support Ohio hospitals' stroke care quality improvement efforts. More specifically, data from the registry allows hospitals to identify problems with their stroke care, develop quality improvement interventions based on the identified problems, and monitor their progress after implementation of a chosen intervention. As a result, hospitals participating in the program show improvement in adherence to stroke performance measures.

In addition to supporting overall stroke care quality improvement, the use of a stroke registry can help hospitals reduce disparities in the care they deliver. Evidence suggests that not only are minorities at higher risk of suffering a stroke, but they also receive lower quality of care and have worse health outcomes. Hospitals participating in GWTG-Stroke improved care for black, Hispanic, and white patients.

The GWTG-Stroke registry also helps hospitals fulfill the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) requirements for quality improvement.

We would ask that this committee consider supporting the codification of this performance measure system. We believe taking the steps now to solidify that proper care is administered will help these patients receive the care and rehabilitation to fully recover.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Kissela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brett Kissela, MD, MS
Professor and Chair