



From the office of:
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Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to share my insights and support for Senate Bill HB434 - The Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Pilot Program, The Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Pilot Program (TBITXL). My name is Dr. Nikhil Verma, and I am a dedicated Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician based in Columbus, Ohio, with extensive experience in managing and rehabilitating hundreds of patients with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), including concussions and their sequelae.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that TBIs, particularly concussions, have on individuals and their families. These injuries are not just medical conditions but life-altering events that can significantly affect a person's quality of life, ability to work, and their relationships. **The statistics are sobering – TBIs contribute to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability annually. In the United States alone, TBIs account for approximately 30% of all injury deaths, with direct and indirect medical costs estimated to be in the billions.**

Beyond the numbers lies a more distressing reality: the lack of ongoing, robust research into effective treatments and rehabilitation strategies for TBI patients. This gap in our medical knowledge and resources places a considerable strain on our healthcare system, patients, and their families, both financially and emotionally. If you or anyone you know has suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, you would understand.

The societal costs are immense, with TBIs resulting in lost productivity, long-term disability, and a significant drain on healthcare and social services.

Yet, despite these challenges, I remain optimistic about the future. The TBITXL represents a beacon of hope – an opportunity to accelerate the development of innovative treatments and rehabilitation techniques that could transform the lives of TBI sufferers.

As a physician who has dedicated my career to this field, I cannot overstate the importance of supporting this bill. The potential benefits extend far beyond the immediate fiscal implications, promising to reduce the long-term societal and economic burdens of TBIs on our state and, indeed, our nation.

I am encouraged by the prospect of what The Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Pilot Program can achieve. With targeted funding and support, we can hopefully reach new frontiers in TBI treatment and rehabilitation, offering hope to thousands of Ohioans living with the consequences of these injuries. **It is not just an investment in healthcare but an investment in the future well-being of our communities.**

As we look to the future, I am hopeful that, with the passage of this bill, we will see a significant advancement in the care and treatment available to TBI patients. I urge you to consider the profound impact of your support for the HB434 bill, as it could benefit the lives of countless individuals and families across our state.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am more than willing to provide further information or answer any questions you may have. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by traumatic brain injuries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikhil Verma', written in a cursive style.

Nikhil Verma, MD