

14 March 2023

Benjamin Osburn

HB 22 - Proponent Testimony

Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee

Thank you Chairman Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and other members of the House Health Provider Services Committee for having us here today. My name is Ben Osburn and I live in Maumee with my wife of five years. We live humble lives: her a nursing assistant, me a program manager. So why would a guy like me be here today? Because most of us know someone who has already had or is at risk of having a stroke, and the care they get matters.

The two most important women in my person life my mother and wife, are both at higher risk of strokes. My mother has a condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, or HCM for short. This condition affects one in two hundred people and many of the carriers go years without any signs. The condition results in blood being able to pump less effectively throughout the heart due to a thickening of most commonly the ventricles. Though the cause of the condition is not clearly known, the complications of it are. People with HCM are more likely prone to strokes, especially those with accompanying atrial fibrillation. My mother takes her condition in stride, she's part one of why I'm here today.

My wife Ashley has a condition called Neurofibromatosis Type 2 a condition that only affects 1 in 25,000 people. She was diagnosed with this condition when she was 11 and has had no choice but to live with it since. Neurofibromatosis Type two, or NF2 for short, is a condition in which benign tumors develop through the body. These tumors, called acoustic neuromas, tend to grow on the nerve that carries sound and balance from the inner ear to the brain. Because of the tumor's location, many victims of NF2 develop total hearing loss, as is the case with my wife. Other locations tumors may develop are in the brain and the spine. Due to the unpredictable location of where a tumor can grow, people with NF2 are at risk for strokes as well. My strong wife Ashley is the second part of why I'm joining today.

If passed, HB 22 will give stroke victims a better ally in their fight. It is through understanding who is taken care of that better care be provided. By allowing the Department of Health to join to compile, collect, and analyze stroke patient data, providers will have better information about how to best utilize their resources. This bill is a win for everyone.

It Is with great pleasure to be here today providing testimony for not just me, but to all our family and friends that have had or may be subject to a stroke. Passage of House Bill 22 would be an excellent step in providing them the care they deserve.

Thank you