



**Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom**

*Advocating for Medical Freedom since 2015*

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Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for hearing my written support testimony for the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

During the last seven and a half years of my volunteer service leading the non-profit, grassroots organization, Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, we have received thousands upon thousands of emails from desperate Ohioans seeking help for various issues in the realm of medical freedom. Many of those communications were from health professionals, patients, and family members who were having difficulty being able to provide or get access to various medications that they desperately needed for their patients or themselves. While most of these pleas for help came during the pandemic, there were many that were completely unrelated to Covid in the years prior.

Many of our members suffer from Lyme disease and have extreme difficulty finding providers to effectively treat the myriad of co-infections that are typical of that disease. There are few doctors willing to treat the illness outside of the “protocol” box. Those that have used their training and innovation to find ways to successfully manage Lyme symptoms in a way that return function to patients, have been chastised and threatened by medical boards and health agencies. Many have had their licenses striped and their credibility destroyed because they dared to go beyond the current medical “norm” and instead focused on each individual patient and the medications that improved their conditions. It is almost impossible to believe that in one of the most medically advanced, and allegedly free, countries in the world that a physician would be punished for making a patient well, but it is true. This is the case for Larry Everhart MD, who gave his testimony here today.

Cancer is another area of medicine in which health providers are limited in their ability to treat patients beyond the traditionally accepted “protocol”. Many of our members have had to seek treatment outside of the country for off-label treatments known to help their conditions. I have heard from Ohioans who were told by their physician they had no chance of survival and they returned to the US cancer free and are still with us today. Unfortunately, most average Ohioans cannot afford those extreme and costly measures. Allowing health providers to treat their patients with FDA approved treatments that may improve the outcomes of potentially terminal patients without fear of backlash is not only “good medicine”, but it is the only ethical thing to do.

Lastly, and most profoundly, we saw an undeniably criminal handling of the recent pandemic. Family members left OAMF tearful voicemails pleading for referrals for legal help to get FLCCC protocol treatments to their loved ones in the hospital. We received reports of discrimination and neglect adding insult to their injury. Many families, including Dave & Angie's, watched in horror as their loved ones died in agony after being refused the treatments that were helping so many others and then denied nutrition because they refused ventilation "protocol". I can't imagine the level of damage caused to the families and children survived by these lost patients. HB 73 would bring some justice to the families of those who lost loved ones and hope for those that may have to seek off label treatments for future pandemics or illnesses.

Medicine is a complex practice and an art. When medical free thought and free speech is stifled by government agencies, along with pharmacy and medical boards, then medical advancements in treatments are stunted. Ultimately, the patients pay the price for the political or financial reasons that rigid "protocols" are put in place by these entities. It is long past due for patients and health providers to have the protections granted under HB 73. On behalf of our members and the citizens of this free state, OAMF implores you to pass this vital legislation.

Please vote YES on HB 73.

Thank you.  
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