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Dear Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 73; the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

In June 2019 my husband of 30 years, Don Beck, was diagnosed with Grade 3 Anaplastic Astrocytoma (an unusual type of cancerous brain tumor). His molecular markers showed that his cancer would not be receptive to chemotherapy, and the manner at which his tumors were diffused across his brain, at varying depths, would require, basically, total brain irradiation.

Needless to say, his prognosis was very grim, but the medical community had nothing else to offer him. Chemo and radiation were their standard protocols, and neither Ohio State, The Cleveland Clinic, nor University Hospitals were even willing to talk with us about any off-label medications or alternative/natural treatment options. Each of these great institutions made it clear to my husband and me, that unless he chose to do their treatments, they could not (would not) be able to help him.

None of these medical giants would even prescribe MRI's for Don. I had to go through my family doctor, and then it was a fight each time to get it approved by my insurance.

I fought for 13 months to find any and all treatments to help my husband! And it was a constant fight! I spent countless hours, days, and months reading and researching everything I could get my hands on to see what other options we could find for Don, and to find any doctor that was willing to work with us. Online I found Care Oncology. They are a group of medical professionals that worked with us remotely, but then it was up to me to ask my family doctor to prescribe the off-label medications. One of his medications was Hydroxychloroquine! During the beginning of Covid, our family doctor told us straight up that he was not legally allowed to prescribe this medication, because it would be used for off purpose uses, and he could lose his license!

I implore you, in memory of my husband, Don, and the thousands of others who have suffered, to pass HB 73! It is critical to allow patient access to off-label medication, and protection for health providers to prescribe such medications and have free medical speech!

Respectfully,

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