

Support HB73

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.

Doctors and pharmacists under threat of losing their jobs cannot have honest conversations with their patients. Getting proper treatment for an illness should not feel like a black market underground drug deal.

I have elderly parents and advocating for their care has been one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do. It is a lot of responsibility to tell a parent that their doctor does not have their best interest at heart and is instead trying to protect his/her medical license. Older people have trusted their doctors and the medical system blindly for decades. The way hospitals handled Covid crushed the assumption that doctors would DO NO HARM.

My 80+ year old parents finally caught Covid in February of 2023 just 2 months ago. After 3 years of exhaustive research, I had to use a telehealth service based in Florida in order to get them the medicine we felt was best to ensure a speedy recovery. They received Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine, doxycycline, and azithromycin from a pharmacy in Las Vegas. My mom recovered quickly but my dad found himself fighting respiratory symptoms after the treatment. We took him to an ER that both starved and dehydrated him for 10 hours before telling us that there was no treatment and he should go home until he could not breathe or his O2 dropped below 90. I remind you this was just 2 months ago! I took my ailing father home and contacted the telehealth service again. They prescribed BUDESONIDE and said it would greatly improve his o2. Because of the urgency, I drove 3 hours across the state to a pharmacy near my home that I knew would not question the need for this nebulizer medication. I took it back across the state and within a half hour, my dad was breathing freely and had a normal O2 saturation. He made a full recovery.

Why couldn't my parents' doctors at University Hospitals care for my parents as they wished? Because they had instructions not to use medications that were considered an alternative treatment. My parents' doctors had even told my parents that the early treatment medications don't work, so we knew they would not prescribe them if needed. My parents' pharmacist in Mentor, Ohio told my dad in 2021 that he was not allowed to fill Ivermectin prescriptions if it was for Covid. The fully licensed doctors from the Florida telehealth service believed in the medications that cured my parents.

We have seen the influence that pharmaceutical companies have on hospitals and doctors. This makes it impossible to know if a doctor has all tools and resources available to him/her to save a life.

Please pass this HB73 in order to start restoring trust between doctors and patients.

Thank you
Patty Klein

