

Written SUPPORT testimony for SubHB 73

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

Thank you for allowing me to provide supporting testimony for SubHB 73-the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

During the recent Covid-19 “pandemic”, State and County governmental institutions directly interfered in my ability to care for my patients. This included restricting my ability to prescribe medications with proven benefits such as ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of Coronavirus infection. The draconian regulations promulgated by health authorities limited both outpatient and inpatient care options and thereby undoubtedly increased morbidity and mortality in our community and State. As a physician, I am trained and very experienced at selecting medications or other treatments that I think are in the best interests of my patients. Every treatment modality is associated with a risk/benefit analysis and this is individualized with each and every patient. Using medications “off-label” has been done frequently for decades, and again oftentimes represents the best available patient care-especially when the off-label medications have been in use for many decades and have an excellent track record of safety. During the “pandemic” my prescriptions and orders for medications ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were refused multiple times by both community and hospital pharmacists. This was extremely frustrating as I knew that my patients were being denied medical care that both they and I had determined was in their best interest. As licensed physicians, we absolutely should not have any governmental bureaucrats interfering in our relationship with or care of our patients!

In Closing, I strongly urge you to Please Vote Yes on SubHB73.

Sincerely,
Robert Neidich, MD, CPE
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