



Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom

Advocating for Medical Freedom since 2015

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide support testimony for HB 236; "The Never Alone Act."

Over the eight years OAMF has been advocating for legislation for employee vaccine choice, parental rights, the repeal of Governor emergencies powers and most recently the rights of patients and their treating physicians- we have received many heartbreaking stories. These tragic accounts significantly increased during the tyrannical Covid lockdowns.

Some of the most painful stories we received came during the final four months of 2021, when we began receiving desperate phone calls and emails from Ohioans begging for help to access a husband or a parent who was being isolated and forced into medical protocols that financially benefited the hospitals and often resulted in the death or permanent disability of that loved one.

Day after day we listened to sobbing wives and heartbroken children ask us how legislators could allow hospitals and nursing homes to treat their husbands or mothers so inhumanly? Or how they could be silent when facilities forced them to press their faces against patient room windows struggling to hear the muffled voice of their masked loved one through their cell phone? Imagine the follow up phone calls telling us... "she died today. I don't think she even knew how desperately I tried to be there for her. She must have felt absolutely abandoned".

Now I'd like to take this to a more personal level. I want you to try to think about how my sons 13-year-old friend felt when he found out his dad would likely have permanent nerve damage in one arm and leg because the hospital wouldn't allow his mom in the room to make sure he was being turned properly during his weeks on the ventilator. Try to comprehend what it felt like for this boy to watch the dad he adored withering away through the window due to lack of sufficient nutrition and hearing about bed sores so deep that they had to be scrapped to the bone.

Ponder the moment he finds out his dad is finally off the ventilator and going to a rehab facility and possibly able to come home soon, only to find out days later that a therapist accidentally pulled the trach from his dad's throat, and it starved him of oxygen so long that he is now brain dead. Try to visualize my son's friend finally sitting next to a father he hasn't been able to touch in almost three months and holding his lifeless hand beside his sobbing mother Debbie, as they pull the plug.

These aren't just stories.

These are real examples of some of the heartbreaking and in-humane atrocities that occurred in the lives of people all over this state... but didn't have to.

OAMF couldn't help these desperate family Members get access to their loved ones to advocate for them, but you can!

The Never Alone Act helps right the wrongs of the past by guaranteeing better outcomes for patients in the future. We pray this committee and legislative body will act swiftly to correct these injustices by voting YES on HB 236, because every patient deserves an advocate in the room.

Stephanie Stock, LPTA
OAMF President