

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 236; "The Never Alone Act"

Hello,

My Name is Julie Crumrine, and I'm telling you about how my loved ones (plural) had to spend their time in the hospital. One, my father was in Akron city, and the one I'm writing this testimony for, my sister, Jessica Lee Crumrine was in Western reserve Hospital.

January 7th 2022, the evening my Dad went in to the hospital, Ohio had made a 10 day ban, for any visitors. It was a hard shock to us, why couldn't the spouse of family who lived in the same household make that decision for themselves if they wanted to be in a room with someone actively fighting covid. When he went in, he was having a hard time breathing, but seemed to be doing and feeling much better once he had an oxygen mask on. I can say this, because for the first 2 days he was able to facetime us on his phone! He looked good, he was smiling, his color was great, his eyes looked good. We sure had high hopes. The 3rd day, they put him onto a ventilator. Said his oxygen levels dropped and they couldn't get them up. Told us he might just need it for an hour or two, just to get those levels back up. We had to take THEIR word for it. How would we know otherwise? We were not allowed in there. My dad was very much an optimist. If they told him for just an hour or so, he thought " lets do this" just so he could get to feeling better, and get out of there.

Also that same evening, (Jan 7, 2022) my sister had developed a cough and a fever. She was still at home that night, and was sent to the hospital the next morning.

They immediately stuck her on a ventilator.

They kept her awake for some reason?

That is what really makes me upset.

Can you imagine?

Being sent to a hospital for the first time, they put a tube down your throat, you can't talk, who knows how she could communicate?? She did not have her phone to facetime. We only had what the doctors would tell us, which always seemed to be great news.

My sister was a fun loving person. She was the best Sister, Daughter, Aunt, cousin, and Friend. Never met a stranger. Loved to hug everyone, and those were some really great hugs, you can ask all those strangers!! She loved to Dance, and the nurses at Western reserve learned that right away on her first night there.

Knowing my sister, I'm sure she was afraid, and she was trying to make the room light and bubbly, and she loved the reaction they gave her when she would dance in her bed, so they would be her "friend" and stay with her, and not leave her alone.

Jessica was in the hospital like this from January 8th 2022, and she wasn't allowed visitors for the first ten days because of the "Ban", but then she wasn't allowed visitors after the "ban" because supposedly she was still actively fighting covid.

My Dad passed away on my Birthday, January 23, 2022

That evening my sister spiked another fever, and declined the next four days, and passed away in the early morning of January 27th 2022

My sister was never allowed a visitor, but we were called the morning as she was passing. My mother and I did not make it in time, she was already gone by the time we arrived.

Its not fair.

She did not deserve this, my Mom did not deserve this, nor did her niece and nephew, and all of Jessica's extended family and abundance of friends.

I hope going forward, NOT a single person has to ever experience this kind of Bull Sh#\$^#, because that is really what all of that was.

And when asked WHY did my sister suddenly take a drastic turn for the worse, pass away, AFTER we were told how well he was doing, and responding to the "new covid treatments"

The Doc threw his hands up and simply said "she wasn't vaccinated!"
WOW!

Ohioans need the ability to have access to a loved one to advocate for and comfort them during a health crisis and at end of life. ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, LIKE MY SISTER!

Please vote yes on HB 236.

THANK YOU!!