

**Good Morning Chairman Lampton and members of the Insurance Committee.**

**My name is BethAnn Ennis, I am a wife to John, a mother to 4 beautiful children: Jeshua, Elijah, Mary Beth, and Elle June. I am a wife, mom, a daughter and a caregiver to my 92 year old mother. I am active in ministry at my local church and in my community of Reynoldsburg. I am a proud Ohio resident.**

**I am also battling Non Small Cell Lung Cancer.**

**6 years ago, at age 48, what I thought was a strained muscle sent me to the ER where it was discovered that it was something more significantly serious. Nothing could have prepared my husband John and I to tell our four children that their mother had a mass growing in her lung that was cancerous.**

**I was moved quickly into surgery at The James Cancer Hospital to remove the mass and lobe in my lung, which was**

**followed by extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatments. 6 months later my scans revealed there was no evidence of disease.**

**There was a critical moment before I went into surgery I was approached by a pulmonary oncologist who asked permission to have a tissue sample of my tumor to perform biomarker testing for his research, and to extend my life.**

**My biomarker test results revealed that I had the ALK positive gene mutation. This mutation occurs in 5 percent of all lung cancer patients. Having this knowledge about myself was a blessing because there are 5 successful targeted therapies that exist right now to treat my type of cancer.**

**A year and a half ago after being declared “no evidence of disease” my cancer came back and I was diagnosed in stage 4 advanced. Now was the time to turn to one of the targeted therapies identified by my biomarker test. Within 8-12 weeks**

**of being on this targeted therapy I had no evidence of disease. This August will be 2 years since any cancer was seen in my body since being put on my therapy.**

**There are so many benefits to being on a targeted therapy directed towards a specific gene mutation compared to traditional means of treating cancer:**

- I take my therapy orally. This allows me to be at home and not in a hospital receiving traditional chemotherapy and/or radiation with all of its horrific side effects.**
- The side effects are not as hard as traditional treatment on the body. I am active and productive in the lives of my family members, friends and community.**
- It gives the gift of time. Unfortunately, you cannot go into remission when you have lung cancer but targeted therapy will hopefully allow me and other survivors to treat our lung cancer and other cancers as a chronic condition. It is giving us time in which we hope to see a cure.**

**Biomarker testing is not available to everyone. Without it, I would not have had access to the targeted therapy that saved my life.**

**I would not be here today.**

**Targeted therapy has given me so much beautiful time with my family and friends. I have been present for my 28th wedding anniversary with my beloved husband, I have been able to celebrate my children's birthdays, I watched my daughter graduate from high school last year, I have been able to spend quality time in caring for my Mom...so many milestones that I believe I would not have seen if it were not for the God given gift of my life giving therapy. I am beyond grateful.**

**I want this gift of biomarker marker testing for every human life that has to face a diagnosis of cancer. Biomarker testing is a life giving resource.**

**I urge you to pass House Bill 24. Thank you Chairman  
Lampton and members of the Insurance Committee for your  
time and listening to my story.**