

# The James



The Ohio State University  
Comprehensive Cancer Center –  
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and  
Richard J. Solove Research Institute

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## **Re: Letter of Support –Hank’s Law**

To whom it may concern:

I am contacting you to indicate my strong support for Hank’s Law, where the intent is to designate one calendar month annually as “Sarcoma Awareness Month”. Sarcoma is a form of cancer that occurs in connective tissues such as bone, muscle, tendon, cartilage, nerve sheath, and blood vessels. This cluster of malignant diseases comprises approximately one percent of cancers in humans and ten percent of tumors in dogs. Therapies consist of chemotherapies with associated toxicities, radiotherapy, and radical surgery, frequently with serious quality of life issues in the post-operative surveillance period. There have been no essentially new forms of therapy introduced since the late 1970s, which underlies the less than satisfactory five-year fifty percent overall survival rate. The canine species, because of sarcoma prevalence, represents an outstanding model of human sarcoma disease. As such, new therapies can be rapidly moved from the laboratory bench into clinical trials, and collaborations between faculty at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine have made important progress in understanding the cancer biology of both canine and human patients needed as we develop new therapies relevant to both species. Passage of Senate Bill #43 will increase public awareness of the imperative to develop new therapies for this all too often lethal human and canine form of cancer, and I appreciate the opportunity to bring these realities to your attention!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R. Pollock'.

**Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS**

**Director**, The Ohio State University

**Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Kathleen Wellenreiter Klotz Chair in Cancer Research

The James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

**Professor**, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery

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