

STATEMENT OF JUDITH REID IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 356

Before the Public Health Policy Committee

Representative Adam Mathews, Chair

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and Public Health Policy Committee members: Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony for House Bill 356, the "Healthy Cardiac Monitoring Act."

My name is Judy Reid. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio. I was raised on a family farm in Preble County and have lived in Liberty Township for the last 29 years.

I was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in 1987, at the age of 21. My first work physical required an EKG and my results were not 'normal'. A Hamilton cardiologist ordered an echocardiogram, where HCM - called "IHSS" way back then, was definitively diagnosed. Before this diagnosis, I had no health concerns or issues. I had NO symptoms, at least not that I realized at the time, and no one in our family had yet been diagnosed with HCM. My mother was an emergency room nurse for 25 years at the Fort Hamilton Hospital (now Kettering) so she was well-versed in cardiac symptoms, expression, and care. After my diagnosis, she told me many times that she was mortified that she had allowed me to play basketball on the school team when I was growing up. Hank Gathers death in 1990, due to HCM, while playing basketball for Loyola Marymount College, was a tragic reminder of how devastating this disease could be. I was treated with medication and monitored for many years and went about living my life as normally as possible. It was later discovered that the gene I inherited that causes HCM came from my maternal side of the family. Because of my diagnosis, many other relatives have been diagnosed. My mother was diagnosed following mine. She passed away in August 2009 at the age of 63 from complications after open heart surgery - a myectomy.

In 1989, I married a supportive and patient man, as he had no idea what he was signing on for. Our 35th anniversary is next week. We had one biological child in 1991, a son, Wyatt. Wyatt was screened for HCM at recommended intervals during his childhood. He ran track and played football in school, so I always watched over him with a little extra concern, even though I knew that he had been evaluated and cleared to play his sports by physicians. In 1997 we adopted a daughter, Lily.

In 1995, I had a pacemaker implanted as a treatment for my HCM. In 1999, an AV nodal ablation was performed on me as a treatment for HCM. The AV nodal ablation procedure rendered me pacemaker dependent and it also triggered severe symptoms. These symptoms put me on a path to find the best care possible for this disease. I was fairly new to the internet, but I utilized it to find the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association - HCMA - and the best treatment plan available. The HCMA recommended that I be seen at the Cleveland Clinic where I had open heart surgery - a myectomy - in November of 1999. The surgery was almost magical for me. I was symptom-free for many years following the surgery but as time has gone on the disease progressed.

I don't remember what life without HCM feels like any longer. I had required many surgeries to maintain my pacemaker/ICD/leads through the years. April of 2023 was my last surgery and my

current path is pre-transplant assessment. As you can see, this has been an arduous journey, but one that's enabled a life very much worth living. It's not one I would wish upon anyone else. But the alternative is to go unscreened, undiagnosed, and unaware that life's journey could end at any moment. I am truly one of the lucky ones to have been screened – and I don't want all the Wyatts and Lilys in this State to have lifespans dependent on that kind of luck.

House Bill 356 is widely supported by the medical community nationally and here in Ohio. It's based on screening questions proven to save lives. Its cost is negligible; the potential savings are enormous. I'm here today to urge you to make House Bill 356 law this session. A day delayed may mean a life needlessly cut short. Thank you.