



**American
Heart
Association.**

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HB 33 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 33, the state's operating budget bill. This legislation includes House-added language from HB 22, the stroke registry bill, that will codify the current use of the Ohio Stroke Registry. This is a data-driven program for stroke treatment that provides quality improvement resources to emergency medical service providers, hospital stroke teams, and other healthcare providers to provide high quality stroke care to Ohioans.

My name is Dr. Syed Zaidi and I work as a Stroke Neurologist & Associate professor of neurology at University of Toledo and Promedica Toledo Hospital and a board member for the Greater Toledo American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Stroke remains a serious health threat as a leading cause of adult disability in the state of Ohio. Fortunately, in the past decade, there have been major breakthroughs in treatment protocols for the most devastating types of strokes. For the frontline stroke physicians, it is imperative that we have access to high quality patient level data to learn, innovate and improve in our fight against this crippling disease.

This legislation will make it mandatory for all Ohio Department of Health-recognized Comprehensive, Thrombectomy-Capable, and Primary Stroke Centers to provide sample data regarding any stroke patient – from the time they have a stroke until they are discharged from the hospital and return to their primary care doctor for outpatient care. This reporting on a sample of patients will help to ensure that all stroke patients in Ohio will continue to receive the highest quality of care for stroke, a leading cause of death and long-term disability, by supporting a statewide, coordinated stroke systems of care. EMS agencies, hospitals, and health care facilities will collect and analyze data about stroke patients and care and share best practices and data, to work to improve patient care.

As a stroke neurologist, I believe it is essential for the state to continually measure, track, and improve upon both the quality and access to care for stroke patients – from the very onset of stroke symptoms through rehabilitation and recovery. Only then will we be able to see a decrease in the rate of premature death and disability from stroke and help to eliminate any inconsistencies in stroke care across the state.

By codifying the current best practice of utilizing a statewide stroke registry, we will continue to improve upon access to rehabilitation and opportunities for recovery after stroke as well as increase the workforce capacity and scientific knowledge of stroke care within stroke systems of care.

We are hopeful that the legislature will recognize the importance of doing all we can, collectively, to reduce the incidences of death and disability by stroke – the number 5 killer in Ohio. Please support the inclusion of HB 22 in the Operating Budget Bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.