

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 73, The Dave & Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

My name is Jennifer Smith and my husband, Christopher Smith died at the Cleveland Clinic - Main Campus on October 21, 2021. He was first submitted to Cleveland Clinic - Hillcrest on August 3, 2021. I'm not quite sure how to make a short testimony on such a traumatic and tragic experience that went on for months. Chris took a test on August 2, 2021 which said he had Covid. The next day he went to the Emergency Room where he was treated with steroids. At that time, his lungs did not look good, but because of all the horror stories about those dying in hospitals on ventilators, he did not want to be admitted. He asked for Ivermectin but was denied by the head of the emergency department. He would be admitted to Hillcrest only a handful of days later because we didn't know what else to do. Hillcrest was a nightmare. I remember feeling like we were in a 3rd world country with no rights. He was denied any sort of treatments that were being talked about with success. He was only given hospital protocols despite asking for vitamins, nutrition, fluids and again Ivermectin. He was given steroids, TWO rounds of Remdesivir, which has much controversy surrounding this drug especially two rounds. There was a short time when he seemed to improve and I'm not sure what caused the decline. He wasn't being given enough fluids, food or nutrition. Anything that would support a body that was fighting a virus. At one point, we asked about monoclonal antibodies, and the doctor told us he was not sick enough to receive that. My mother had also had an antibody test and was positive and shared the same blood type as my husband, in which they refused to do this as well. When he started to decline, on August 11, 2021, they started giving him the antibodies, more nutrition and supplements. By this time, he had been in the ICU for EIGHT days. On August 12, 2021 my husband was intubated. The doctors definitely used scare tactics and some things that were said were very unprofessional. Thank goodness he had some very special nurses watching out for him. They would soon say there was nothing else to do for him but friends were in contact with the Main Campus where he was moved. He was life flighted on August 17, 2021 where he

would be put on an Ecmo machine. Part of an ongoing problem is they were unable to wake him up once intubated, which there are too many details to share. He would be given a Trach on 8/25 and kidney dialysis by 9/5. The hospital would make him a DNR at one point without my permission. Some pretty miraculous things happened after that. There are just so many details. A doctor was able to get him awake, and all his numbers started improving. I even discussed rehab with this particular doctor. The DNR was eventually removed. There are so many things that happened over these months. To see the amount of medications he was given, and counter actions to some, mistakes with dialysis bags, blood transfusions, etc. He was given some drugs that would keep him from having bowel movements, and before they addressed that, he would have a backup of his bowels to where I think he even threw up. This happened during the night. He would eventually be diagnosed with Sepsis that tested positive for a bacteria found in his colon. On October 13 and 15 he had started some rehabilitation. By October 21, at 7 am in the morning, my husband had died very tragically. There is so much more to this, but I wanted to get this sent in as soon as possible. I can't begin to explain all that I saw and experienced. I can say that I should be able to say that the hospital tried everything possible, but they absolutely did not. No one should ever have to go through what we did, especially in this country. I pray for justice and laws put into place that will keep this from ever happening again to anyone.

Needless to say, I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 73!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Smith