

May 20, 2024

Dear Senate Health Committee Members;

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.

I have been a caregiver since 1998 for my grandparents and my parents and my mom is still alive at 93. I was responsible for overseeing their health, hospital visits, EMS transports, doctors visits, rehabilitation, in home nursing, hospice, and interacting with all doctors, nurses and practitioners. I know what the practices of hospitals were BEFORE covid, and how care was intentionally reduced to reach their desired outcomes of near death or death during covid! What my husband, father and I went through in August 2021 and July 2022 will never be forgotten. The minimal standard of care was completely eliminated at the start of covid.

Testimony 1:

In July 2022, I took my husband to Crystal Clinic for severe back pain. They determined that his severe back pain could be caused from aneurysm they discovered. They determined it was 3.5 centimeters and not a danger to him as they only do surgery at 5 centimeters. But they recommended we go to a hospital emergency department. We chose Summa Barberton, Ohio, since it was across the street from my husband's cardiologist and I immediately advised him what was happening and if necessary he could come over and intercede where necessary. When we first arrived I asked the nurse to check for dehydration in his blood work and she did so immediately. This was about 2:00 p.m. She advised us that his blood work confirmed that he was dehydrated and I asked that he get an IV! (IT WAS ALWAYS past practice and "*a minimal standard of care*" that patients were IMMEDIATELY put on an IV as dehydration was always a factor in most, if not all admissions, which was the case for my 20 years as a caregiver.) After laying there in the emergency room for hours we kept asking that he get an IV to no avail. The hospital determined they would keep him to monitor him overnight. Now it is the evening hours. He still has not been given an IV or offered anything to drink or eat! It's about 8:30 p.m. and I asked that we get him something to eat and drink. He was provided nothing. I drove home and made him food and brought him back hydrating drinks and we still had not received anything from the hospital. Now, we are advised that the first floor manager refuses to care for him as they don't have an aneurysm team even though they determined it was not a factor for rupturing, and she wanted him transported to Summa Akron! He is put in another room, we advised a visiting nurse what is going on, and he proceeds to establish an IV connection, but it is withheld for no expressed reason by the hospital staff. I also care for my elderly 91 year old mother and had to go home and check on her till family arrived. At

approximately 3:00 a.m. he was finally transported to Summa Akron. Had I known this, I would have driven him down to the hospital. The next day they advised him that he will be there for the weekend, it is a Friday, and he still has not been given an IV!!!!!!! **Dehydration can cause many severe symptoms on its own so you would have thought “they would have met what was once a considered a “minimum” standard of care!!!!** He had to bug them constantly and they finally gave him one. They scheduled him for an MRI and other testing over the weekend, and his doctor confirmed he should do this inpatient as it took months to get these tests done by outpatient. Saturday morning comes and he is advised that the MRI was cancelled for no apparent reason (and not by his doctor), and he was released later that day!

The subsequent week he got very sick, and after the horrible experience at the two Summa hospitals, we went to Akron General Hospital. While we were in the emergency room checking in and getting his vitals, he passed out in the wheelchair and they rush him to the emergency team. They determined he had covid. He must have contracted this at one of the other hospitals. First thing in the morning, I went in to see him and the doctor came in and told him he would be put on Remdesivir. He told them NO, and that he wanted Ivermectin. They told him they do not prescribe it...only Remdesivir, which is well known to cause damage to the kidneys and liver. When the doctor came back in the room, he told him he was being released!!!! So because he said no to Remdesivir, the hospital refused any other treatment and he was given nothing else and released with no instructions within two hours. Fortunately, I had Ivermectin at home and gave it to him. I was prescribed it in case I ever got it and didn't. I sure wasn't going to let him die with Remdesivir and the hospital protocol!!!!

Further, it is common practice for hospitals and doctors to use other medications all the time! They did so on my father in July 2019 with Amiodarone with Ventricular Tachycardia. Although they overdosed him on it while in the hospital and he never should have been given so much due to his age, he almost died once he was released from the hospital. His second cardiologist confirmed it Had I not been vigilant as his caregiver, he would have died that year, and sooner than later.

Testimony 2:

On August 12, 2021, we thought my dad was going to pass away at home because he started failing quickly and he wanted no interventions if necessary. We were trying to get hospice established at home, but because his pacemaker restarted his heart, I didn't want him suffering so we called his cardiologist and advised him what was happening. We transported him to Barberton Summa with the understanding he would be given comfort care with a DNR. The EMS doctor okayed it, but when we got to the hospital the Emergency Room doctor refused him the comfort care medication and forced him to lay in bed for 5.5 hours struggling in pain with the Ventricular Tachycardia because he wanted to give

him Amiodarone. I told him in front of possibly eight nurses, techs, etc., that he had a horrible reaction to it in July 2019 and that it almost killed him and I refused. I asked if they had anything else to help the V-Tach and he said he only wanted to give that. I said what happened to not giving medications where someone has an allergic reaction?? He didn't care. Finally at 2:00 a.m. in the morning, I told him to give him the Amiodarone because I couldn't stand watching him struggle anymore. The nurse came in the room and finally administered THE COMFORT CARE MEDICINE we asked for when we got there 5.5 hours early and which was approved by the EMS doctor! He died within five minutes of getting it!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I went out many times and begged for them to give him the comfort care medicine. They did nothing and walked away. So what happened to the "minimal" standard of care! He wasn't given an IV, no comfort care medication as advised, his doctor's advice was ignored, and he wasn't provided anything to relieve him..... nothing!

Prior to that he threatened to hold a meeting to have my POA revoked!!!! Do you realize what we went through, which my son had to watch as this horrific thing happened to his grandfather and mother! Then the doctor had the nerve to walk up to us and say after my dad died that at least he NEVER suffered! When I saw his cardiologist shortly thereafter, he told me he completely ignored what he advised him and that he also wanted to use the paddles on him. So this Emergency Room doctor ignored his doctor, another doctor who authorized comfort care medication, his caregiver of ten years, threatened me, knew nothing about him and wanted to strong arm us into something we knew would not help and went against even the patient's wishes!!!!!! We need HB73!! **No families should ever endure these horrific things at the hands of hospitals, doctors, nurses or any practitioner again! This will haunt us forever!**

I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO PASS HB73!!!!

Respectfully,

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