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Support Testimony HB73

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for considering my support testimony for HB73—the “Dave & Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.”

No person should die for want of a safe medication that doesn't meet a hospital's "protocol" or doesn't comply with a pharmacist's whim or agenda.

In September 2021 my 58-year-old wife, Amy, passed away due to covid after Ohio pharmacists refused to fill a safe prescription that her doctor determined would be the best treatment for her condition. During the same month, Dave and Angie Plant passed away after the hospital they were in refused to fill prescriptions that didn't conform to the hospital's protocol. In the end, the hospital's protocol didn't keep Dave and Angie alive.

On the contrary, it may have killed them.

There is no way of knowing for sure whether the treatment prescribed by Amy's doctor would have saved her life. There is no way of knowing for sure whether the treatment prescribed by Dave and Angie's doctor would have saved their lives.

But they should have had the right to try.

It is so self-evident that it shouldn't need to be stated that a person has the God-given right to make his or her own medical decisions. It is even more obvious when those decisions make the difference between life and death. Such decisions are not games to be played or points to be made.

After Amy's passing I spoke with several pharmacists in Strongsville about the reason they refused to fill specific prescriptions to treat covid—prescriptions that were, in doctors' judgement, the best option for their patients. Two pharmacists cited their employers' corporate policy for their refusal to fill. One pharmacist incredibly told me that it was her decision—not her company's policy, but her's—to refuse to fill potentially life saving prescriptions.

This pharmacist took it upon herself to be the almighty arbiter who stood between doctors and their dying patients.

This can no longer be tolerated.

If a person's right to medical freedom—the right to make their own life and death health decisions—is taken away, so also is their fundamental rights to life and liberty.

HB73 passed the Ohio House by a vote of 75-16.

In the interest of ethics, morality and basic human decency, I implore the members of this committee to join their colleagues in the House and vote in favor of HB73, the Dave & Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act, with all of the contained provisions intact.

Amy's story can be found here:

<https://www.kenmcentee.com/2022/02/09/pharmacists-played-god-and-my-wife-died/>

Thank you,

Ken McEntee