



**House Health Committee  
Senate Bill 20 Proponent Testimony  
April 9, 2025**

**Kinsey Jolliff, MPPA  
Vice President of Government Relations  
The MetroHealth System**

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 20.

My name is Kinsey Jolliff, and I serve as MetroHealth's Vice President of Government Relations. MetroHealth is a super safety-net provider located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which includes the City of Cleveland and its surrounding suburbs. Founded in 1837, MetroHealth has served Cuyahoga County longer than any other Cleveland healthcare organization.

MetroHealth's Stroke and Cerebrovascular Center is the only dedicated acute inpatient stroke rehabilitation unit in Northeast Ohio with nearly 200 acute stroke patients admitted annually. When experiencing a stroke, about 2 million brain cells die with each minute that passes. Getting the right care at the right time can mean the difference between major and minor stroke effects. This is why hospitals have implemented rapid assessments to determine the correct course of treatments which often includes a clot-dissolving medicine called tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). This powerful drug can restore blood flow to the brain and reverse the negative effects of a stroke. The time window to give this drug is very small—three hours from the start of symptoms.

After the crisis passes, extensive rehabilitative care provided by highly qualified teams including emergency doctors, neurologists, neurointerventional radiologists, neurosurgeons and specially trained stroke nurses is often required to restore health, abilities, and quality of life. Additionally, MetroHealth offers our stroke survivors, family, and friends, the opportunity to meet other Survivors through our Stroke Survivors Group. This provides an opportunity to bring stroke survivors together for fun, friendship, and support as they navigate the road to recovery from stroke.

It's important to recognize the warning signs of a stroke. Using the letters in **Be Fast**, remember:

- **B**alance – loss of balance or falling
- **E**yes – painless loss of vision or eyes deviating towards one side or the other
- **F**ace – facial droop. Is one's smile uneven or lopsided? Is the crease between the nose and lips on one side flattened compared to the other?
- **A**rm – arm weakness, numbness and/or clumsiness. Does raising both arms with palms up and eyes closed for 10 seconds cause one arm to rotate inwards and/or drift downward compared to the other?
- **S**peech – sudden slurring or inability to make sense when speaking and/or understand others.
- **T**ime – time to call 911

Designating the first week of May as Ohio Stroke Awareness Week will highlight the importance of recognizing not just signs and symptoms of a stroke but also risk factors that could lead to one. Thank you to the House Health Committee and Senators Manning and Antonio for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 20.