

Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and Members of the House Health Committee,
Thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 12 The Jeff, Dave, & Angie Patient Right to Try Act.

This is the testimony of Bonita Kaufman.

On Wednesday September 1, 2021, I woke up with a horrible headache, cough, and ached all over.

On Tuesday September 7, I was still feeling horribly so I called my primary doctor, Dr. Bonezzi, and told her my symptoms.

On Wednesday September 8, Dr. Bonezzi's nurse, came to my house to swab me for COVID but did not check my lungs, take my blood pressure, or assist with my symptoms in any other way. Dr. Bonezzi would not do anything for me until she received the results of the COVID test. She should have treated my symptoms at that time and I may not have gotten worse.

On Sunday September 12, I still felt awful and my pulse meter was under 89. I called the ER. The emergency squad picked me up and took me to the hospital. I tested positive for COVID and also had pneumonia so I was put in a room that was quarantined and put on oxygen. No questions were asked of me even though I knew after 10 days I was no longer contagious. I did tell them I would not be put on a ventilator. My family knew I had told this to the hospital. For a week, no family or friends were allowed to visit me. I wasn't allowed to shower or wash my hair. They never changed my bedding or my gown.

On Thursday September 16, the hospital put me on baricitinib without my or my family's permission. It had only been approved by an EAU to be used to treat COVID-19 and had side effects that were troubling such as getting infections more easily, increased risk of developing certain cancers, and upper respiratory infections.

On Sunday September 19, the hospital called my daughter and told her she could visit me as my situation was looking dire. My blood pressure was elevated. I was on an Aerovo machine. She had to wear a gown and mask. I had been isolated for a week and was feeling very depressed. I had given up and was ready to die. My daughter tried to encourage me and told me I was going to live.

On Monday September 20, my daughter called the hospital advocate and told her that it had been over 10 days since the onset of my symptom's and that I should be allowed visitors. My daughter said my mental health was most important at this time. My daughter asked for the Patient Bill of Rights. The advocate agreed that I could now have visitors.

On Tuesday September 21, I told the doctor I wanted to be taken out of quarantine and discharged. He told me I would go home and need oxygen and be readmitted to the hospital and die. I was on the phone with my daughter at the time of the doctor visit and she overheard the dr say this. The nurse also told me nastily that I would go home and have to be readmitted and die. I still insisted on being discharged.

On Wednesday September 22, I was to be discharged but the dr could not be found. They still had me on oxygen. My sister told me to take the tube out of my nose to trigger an alarm. When I did, the dr came right in. He discharged me with an order for oxygen to be delivered to my home. I did not need oxygen any time after being discharged.

I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 12.