

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 and Angie Right to Try Act.

Hello, my name is Julie Smith. My husband Jeff was killed by the Covid hospital protocols at UC Hospital in West Chester on September 25, 2021. From the moment Jeff entered the hospital he was isolated from everyone and mocked for not getting the Covid Vaccine. The doctors and nurses did not discuss any treatment options or their risks and side effects with Jeff or me. We never gave consent for Remdesivir or Actemra, they were just given. From the beginning we asked for Ivermectin in which we were laughed at and told we should go ask a veterinarian. We also begged for Vitamin C therapy, Vitamin D, Zinc and Budesonide. They were all denied because they were quote “not part of the Covid protocol”. The first time they tried to put my husband on a ventilator his breathing was stable, but they came in and said they thought his lungs needed a rest for a few days and it was best to ventilate. He refused at the urging of a nurse who told him the outcomes from ventilators were not good. Because Jeff did not obey the doctor’s orders he was then starved, neglected and withheld all fluids for 4 days. He was not on IV fluids and wasn’t even allowed ice chips or mouth swaps to wet his mouth....nothing. He was in agony. They left him alone for hours and hours on end. He would push his call light button, and no one would come. With no one there to advocate for Jeff the torment and abuse continued until they succeeded at getting him on a ventilator.

Once vented, Jeff was tied to his bed and put on heavy paralytics and sedation. He began declining so we continued to plead for alternate medications that we had researched were working elsewhere, but all were denied. At one point I had a doctor convinced to change Jeff’s steroid to Methylprednisolone as he agreed it was proven to penetrate the lungs better. It was switched for a few days before another doctor switched it back to dexamethasone because it was the only steroid they were “allowed” to use with Covid. I wasn’t getting anywhere with the doctors, so as a last act of hope I hired lawyers for \$7,000 to try and get Jeff Ivermectin. A judge quickly agreed to the doctor’s order and the Ivermectin was to start the next day. 4 hospital pharmacists came to Jeff’s room to try and scare me out of it. They told me all the side effects and risks from giving him Ivermectin and made me sign a waiver. I was thoroughly confused because I was not told the risks or made to sign off any of the other drugs he was given such as Remdesivir, Fentanyl, Precedex and Dilaudid to name a few. Jeff was started on the Ivermectin and was improving greatly. His oxygen needs went down from 80% to 50%. I then got news that the hospital was fighting the judge’s ruling to have the Ivermectin and that I would have to pay another \$7,000 if I wanted to fight for Jeff to keep getting it. A drug that was given a Nobel Prize and is one of the safest drugs ever created was so threatening to the hospital that they had to counter sue me to make sure my husband could not have it. Why?

I had already signed a waiver. Was it because he was getting better? Because of this very public trial in which I had to testify to receive a potentially life-saving drug for my husband, my family and I were vilified all over the media and stalked and harassed in our home. The 2<sup>nd</sup> judge ended up ruling in favor of the hospital and the ivermectin was stopped immediately even though it was helping Jeff. Jeff suffered another bout of no food or fluids for 4-5 days because of “throwing up” after being trached. After this and an untreated UTI, my husband died a few weeks later.

I was left to try to answer my 9-year-old daughter when she asked me why the hospital took her daddy’s medicine away and why they didn’t want to help him get better. How do you answer a question like that? I am here today because my oldest daughter said her dad’s death shouldn’t be for nothing and we need to help fight for others. We believe every Ohioan deserves all treatments available when they are fighting for their lives. The Government and pharmaceutical companies should not be able to dictate which medications are lucrative enough to be given in the hospital setting. Especially when the so called “protocols” are not working and thousands of people are dying from the very protocols and medications they continue to administer. I heard code blue after code blue in that hospital daily and kept asking the doctors if your protocols aren’t working, why don’t you want to try something different? They just kept saying there wasn’t anything else they could do when we all knew there was. Families should not have to pay \$14,000 and go to court just to even have a chance at receiving a safe, proven drug to help their loved one. My husband suffered in the hospital for 72 days. He fought so hard but, in the end, he could not overcome the treatment and lack thereof from the hospital institution that we thought would help him. I will never recover from the horror I witnessed in that hospital and My kids are all suffering terribly. Please help protect other children from becoming fatherless due to the lack of access to medications, treatments and nutrition. I urge the Committee to please vote yes on HB12. Thank you for your time.



