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Proponent Testimony HB12
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Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for considering my support testimony for HB12—"The Jeff, Dave & Angie Right to Try 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.

I am Ken McEntee, a resident of Strongsville, a member of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party Central Committee, a member of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party Executive Committee, a member of the Strongsville GOP, the Middleburg Heights GOP and the Cuyahoga Valley Republicans.

In September 2021 my 58-year-old wife, Amy, passed away with covid pneumonia after Ohio pharmacists played God and refused to fill a safe, FDA-approved (in 1955) prescription for hydroxychloroquine, which her doctor determined would be the best treatment for her condition.

During the same month Jeff Smith passed away after the hospital he was in for covid refused to fill a prescription for Ivermectin, a safe, FDA-approved, Nobel Prize winning medication that had been praised by the World Health Organization. The hospital, for some bizarre reason, was so vehement in its opposition to administering this safe drug that when a judge ordered the hospital to provide it to Jeff, the hospital appealed and won—even after Jeff had shown improvement after Ivermectin treatments. Jeff passed away soon after his treatment was stopped.

Also during the same month, Dave and Angie Plant, husband and wife, passed away within days of each other 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 human being 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.

In defense of our God-given right to make our own life or death medical decisions, the Strongsville GOP and the Middleburg Heights GOP have passed resolutions in support of HB12.

In the interest of ethics, morality and basic human decency, I implore the members of this committee to pass HB12, “The Jeff, Dave & Angie Right to Try Act.”

Amy's story can be found here:

<https://kenmcentee.substack.com/p/pharmacists-played-god-and-my-wife>

Thank you,

Ken McEntee