

April 29, 2025

RE: Support testimony for HB 12 The Jeff Dave & Angie Patient Right to Try Act

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.”

In January 2022, on approximately the 6th day of my Covid-19 infection, there was a drastic shift in the severity of symptoms - my breathing became more labored, it was difficult to take in ‘enough’ air.

During a phone call with my internist at one of the premiere NE OH hospitals, I was told that she was forced to adhere to hospital protocol, that did not include prescribing off label meds, which then left me with 2 options:

- 1) “suck it up”
- 2) or if the ability to breathe worsened, “go to the ER.”

In addition to a prescribed inhaler, I resorted to treatments I was familiar with, ranging from OTC antihistamines, anti-inflammatory, fever reducing meds to *diligent* proning, to improve breathing.

The next couple of days were spent frequently proning – draping myself over couch pillows to open my lungs as much as possible, rather than lay on my back. Though feeling exhausted from just the slightest effort, I forced myself to get up and walk around, increased fluid intake, and avoided sitting/laying down for too long.

At least 3 different times my concerned husband, Pfizer vaccine injured who had also been *denied drug treatment by physicians employed in 3 of northeast Ohio's largest hospitals – The Cleveland Clinic, University, and Metro Health – asked if I wanted to be taken to the hospital.* I adamantly declined fearing sedation/ventilation, being confined to a bed with the inability to move, while EUA drugs correlated with kidney damage would be *pushed on me* – as appeared to be the case with many others who were *hospitalized, isolated* from their loved ones and health advocates, *and in too many cases, died alone.*

One of the most distressing and lasting impacts of this Covid-19 infection was witnessing my doctor being *prevented* from prescribing *any meds that may have helped, not included in the hospital's Covid-19 treatment protocol, lest she suffer disciplinary actions or even lose her license.*

We want to ensure we will have treatment choices and a preserved doctor-patient relationship in the future!

*Please protect our health providers' rights to medical free speech so that we can have informed consent, and our rights to access life-saving drugs that our doctors have prescribed and that we have consented to. Please restore the Doctor-patient relationship – **we urge the committee to vote YES on HB 12.***

Respectfully submitted,



Erin McDowell, RN and Craig McDowell, US Army Veteran