

Proponent Testimony – House Bill 33

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and members of the House Insurance Committee, my name is Tom Pamer and I am a proud lifelong resident of Springfield, Ohio. I am a husband to my wife of 20 years, Hillary, and father to my teenage son, Joshua. I am involved in my community, church, an active cancer advocate, and a Cancer Survivor.

In June 2017, at the age of 47, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I told my Primary Physician I was having some urinary issues. He did a digital rectal exam and found an enlargement and sent me to the Urologist. PSA bloodwork was done monthly because my numbers continued to rise. A biopsy was scheduled and cancer was discovered.

After being given my options, I chose surgery for removal. PSA bloodwork continued monthly after surgery, then every three months, then every six, and now yearly to make sure my PSA numbers remain “undetectable.” My son was six years old when I was diagnosed. Thanks to PSA screening and my healthcare team, I now get to watch my son grow up, go to his baseball games, and share with my wife his journey through life.

Innovations in cancer care, such as screening and early detection, mean my son has an even better chance at seeing a world free from the pain and suffering from cancer. I was fortunate to have insurance coverage for PSA screening. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to this life-saving screening because their insurance doesn’t cover it, or paying for it out-of-pocket is too costly and not possible.

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 10,820 men in Ohio who will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. Sadly, it is estimated that 1,160 men in Ohio will die from prostate cancer this year.

In closing, I know firsthand how important it is to have access to prostate cancer screening and with your support of HB 33, every man in Ohio with a high risk of prostate cancer who needs access to screening will be able get tested and potentially catch their cancer early.

Thank you, Chairman Lampton and members of the House Insurance Committee, for considering this legislation. I urge you to pass HB 33.

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