



Chairman Romanchuk
Vice Chair Huffman
Ranking Member Liston
Members of the Senate Medicaid Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 96 – Access to Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy

Dear esteemed committee members:

My name is Dr. Ateeq Haseeb. I am a board-certified neurologist with subspecialty certifications in Child Neurology, Epilepsy, and Clinical Neurophysiology. I have served the Toledo, Ohio community for over 15 years, providing specialized care for children and adults with complex neurological conditions, particularly epilepsy. I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 96.

Drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE) is a serious and often devastating condition. Approximately one-third of patients with epilepsy do not respond to standard anti-seizure medications. These individuals face frequent, uncontrolled seizures that can result in developmental delays, cognitive decline, injury, loss of independence, and increased mortality risk, including SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy).

Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) therapy is a proven and effective adjunctive treatment for patients with DRE. Over the years, I have treated numerous patients with VNS, and many of them have experienced meaningful seizure reduction and improvements in quality of life—becoming more alert, communicative, and independent. VNS can reduce the burden of epilepsy not only for patients but for families and the healthcare system overall by decreasing emergency visits and hospital admissions.

Access to this treatment, however, remains a challenge—particularly for Medicaid recipients especially in OH. The limitations on Medicaid coverage for VNS therapy prevent many patients from receiving this potentially life-changing option. House Bill 96 is a necessary step toward correcting this inequity and ensuring that all eligible patients, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to comprehensive epilepsy care.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 96 and help expand access to VNS therapy for Medicaid patients living with drug-resistant epilepsy.

Thank you once again for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Ateeq Haseeb, MD
Board Certified in Neurology, Child Neurology, Epilepsy & Clinical Neurophysiology
Toledo, Ohio