



Dave Dillahunt, MPA, CAE
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
House Bill 537 Proponent Statement
Senate Health Committee
May 18, 2022

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 537 regarding Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day. The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society represents oncologists and hematologists in Ohio who treat cancer patients in the private office (community) setting. Community oncology practices treat the majority of patients facing cancer. Our members are located in rural, suburban and urban settings. Practices range in size from 1 to 46 physicians, with most being in the 3-4 physician range.

House Bill 537 would designate February 12 as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day. Cholangiocarcinoma is a rare and aggressive form of cancer and there are no screening tests that reliably detect the disease. This makes it likely that the tumor will spread and only be detected in late stages—making treatment more difficult. As such, it is important to bring awareness to the disease and the search for a cure. House Bill 537 will help bring awareness to the disease and will, hopefully, lead to people asking the appropriate questions of their physicians if they notice the symptoms.

We encourage the committee members to support House Bill 537 and appreciate your consideration.

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