



**State Representative Robert Cole Sprague
83rd House District**

House Bill 45
Sponsor Testimony
House Health Committee
March 15, 2017

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 45. House Bill 45 is meant to raise awareness of neurofibromatosis.

Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder that causes tumor growth in the cells that surround and make up nerves. The disorder can be inherited or developed through changes in genes. Tumors that grow because of neurofibromatosis can affect the brain, eyes, ears, cardiovascular system, bones, skin, and other parts of the human body. The broad impact neurofibromatosis has on individuals can result in learning disabilities, disfigurement, cardiovascular issues, cancer, loss of sight, loss of hearing, and many other serious health problems.

Although the disorder is unknown to many Ohioans, neurofibromatosis affects over 100,000 Americans and about one newborn out of every 2,500 to 3,000 births. Neurofibromatosis is more prevalent than many other well-known genetic disorders, and if signed into law, House Bill 45 will help raise awareness by designating the month of May as “Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month.”

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.