I support single payer bill, HB 440, The Ohio Health Security Act. One of the main reasons I moved out of the US was the healthcare system. I still follow politics and am as active as possible because I know my country can do better. I grew up watching my parents battle with insurance companies while my father suffered from a chronic illness. As a young adult, I was denied insurance for preexisting conditions, although I was (and still am) very healthy. I was able to get insurance through work, but the monthly costs were a significant chunk of my salary. Despite the high payments, I was denied things like a tetanus shot because it was deemed unnecessary by my insurer. My husband and I started considering children, but recognized we would struggle with healthcare costs, even if we were fortunate to have completely healthy children. Then I was almost shot in a robbery and became aware of the debt many survivors accrue due to healthcare costs. It’s unacceptable.

I grew up in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but I left because I feared becoming a statistic of how broken our healthcare system is, only to be ignored by politicians. I live in Europe now, where I paid about $5 for a procedure that cost me over $1,000 with insurance in the US (I was told it would cost me around $20,000 without). It took me over a month to schedule this procedure and obtain the results in the US, but I was able to do this all within a day where I currently live. So I’m not buying the propaganda from the healthcare industry and corrupt politicians. I’m happy to pay taxes for the universal healthcare system in Europe and I will continue to fight for my country to join the rest of the developed world. Healthcare is a right and we need HB 440, The Ohio Health Security Act to pass.