

29TH HOUSE DISTRICT

PARTS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

INCLUDING: CITY OF CINCINNATI, CITY OF
HARRISON, AND COLERAIN, CROSBY,
HARRISON, MIAMI, AND WHITEWATER
TOWNSHIPS

COMMITTEES

AGING, FAMILIES, AND HUMAN SERVICES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FINANCE

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

RULES & REFERENCE

**COLUMBUS OFFICE**

VERN RIFFE CENTER
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 14TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
PHONE: (614) 466- 9091
REP29@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

State Representative Cindy Abrams Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston and Members of the House Health Committee – thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 537. This bill would designate February 12th as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day.

Cholangiocarcinoma is a type of cancer that forms in the bile ducts, the part of the body that carries away digestive fluid and other waste away from our body. This fluid is commonly referred to as bile. These ducts connect the liver to the gallbladder and small intestine. This type of cancer develops when the bile duct cells begin to rapidly multiply and form a mass - that then invades and destroys the surrounding healthy tissue

Cholangiocarcinoma is rare, with only 8,000 individuals being diagnosed each year. Due to the cancer's limited occurrence, it is often not diagnosed until it has metastasized and in the late stages, making effective treatment difficult.

Diagnosing Cholangiocarcinoma is similar to the diagnostic process for other cancers. Often, doctors will utilize CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, tumor marker tests, and blood tests to assess the type of mass that has formed and to determine the stage of the cancer.

As we commonly hear, "there is no routine cancer." Treatments and prognoses for Cholangiocarcinoma vary greatly. The most common treatments include drug therapy, immunotherapy, surgery, biliary drainage, or even liver transplant. One thing is certain, when a patient hears that they have cancer, their entire life changes.

I'm sure we all have a personal story. We've all had a loved one, or ourselves, experience a devastating cancer diagnosis. We've all had to watch them face the unknown, trusting medical experts to guide them. I come to you with this bill on behalf of my dear friend and former colleague Lt. Steve Wilger.

I firmly believe that bringing awareness to this devastating cancer will not only help to support research efforts, but will create an outlet for individuals suffering from this deadly disease. I hope this bill allows them the opportunity to feel heard, understood, and valued.

February is already widely recognized as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month. Designating February 12th as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day is a simple next step to shed light on this rare and deadly illness.

Once again, Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 537. I will now stand for questions.