



Community Health Professionals

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Testimony on House Bill 28

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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today on HB28—the legislation aimed at improving transportation from patients receiving hospice. My name is Peggy Carnahan and I am the Vp of Clinical Services at Community Health Professional in Van Wert Ohio covering 15 counties in Northwest and Central Ohio. I come before you today asking for your support of this legislation so that Ohio's most vulnerable citizens have the peace of spending their last day at home with their family.

The goal of the bill is to allow hospice patients more transportation options to and from their home to get the care they need while still maintaining a choice of where they will die. Allowing hospice patient to have the choice of where they want to die is a longstanding principle in hospice care. However, that choice can't exist if there is not appropriate and timely transportation available for those patients. Sadly, today it's not uncommon for hospice patients to wait critical hours and in some cases days to get transportation. Sadly, it's also not uncommon for some people to die waiting for transportation.

Community Health Professionals is a non profit, free standing organization that provides hospice care in the home setting as well as having a stand alone Inpatient Hospice Center. We also provide skilled and private duty services. We have been providing care to our local communities for 47 years. I am currently in my 31st year with Community Health Professionals and have see a multitude of changes which includes the decrease in the amount of transportation that is available for getting patients home from the hospital, or from their home to our inpatient center. Too many times patients are having to wait on transport and they are having symptoms that are not able to be controlled in the setting they are in. Because of the limitations that are set on transportation it is sometimes hours if not days before transport can be arrange. Recently we had a patient that needed to come to our inpatient center from the hospital, the hospital was 2 hours away, the family were all local, and the patient was near death. The family wanted to all be able to be with the patient prior to his passing. Everything on our end was arranged within the hour, but because transport was not able to occur for 3 hours the patient ended up staying in the hospital until he passed without his family being present.

We have all had a loved one that has needed hospice care. As you consider supporting this legislation I would only ask that you consider your loved one. If your family had the option for your loved one to receive hospice care at home and to be surrounded by loved ones, the choice is obvious.

It's for these reasons that I humbly ask for your support of HB 28. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time. Thank you.

Peggy Carnahan BSN RN