

TO: Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee

RE: S. B. No. 143

I am bringing to your attention the water condition in the city of Warren. I am a dialysis patient that rely on the city water for my daily treatment.

We use a concentrated dialyzate that mix with water to make our batch which mixes with my blood to remove the waste in my body. The water is tested twice a year to make sure that it meets the standards for use.

About one year ago, I was informed by my clinic that I no longer could use the Warren water due to the large amounts of aluminum in the water. I was instructed to use hanging bags or have my treatments at the clinic, which I did not want to do.

Being able to treat at home 5 days per week opposed to having my treatments 3 days a week is better for my overall health. I have been using the Nexstage system for over 6 years and it has been life changing for me. My blood work has been better, I have a life outside of dialysis, I'm not drained when the treatments are over and it provides me the opportunity for a longer life.

You could imagine my disappointment when I was told that I had to go to the hanging bags or go to the clinic. Hanging bags are great when on vacation or in an emergency situation such as when my Pure Flow was down so I can't make a batch. One hanging bag weighs in at 5 liters, 11lbs. For my treatment I have to use 40 liters per day that equals to 8 bags. Seven of the bags are lifted and hung on an IV pole which is above my wife's shoulders. She is lifting 77 lbs. per day, 385 lbs. per week 52 weeks which is difficult for her.

I asked my clinic to test the water again because I thought the problem was on my end and could be a simple fix but it wasn't. I contacted Nexstage because I thought maybe someone read the perimeters wrong, it wasn't. I finally contacted the City Water dept. about the high aluminum numbers in our test. They informed me that they did add aluminum to the water some days more, some days less but should not have been a concern.

The Water dept. agreed to test my water which they did but never gave me the results. All the while my wife is lifting heavy bags every day.

I was getting more and more depressed watching the toll that this was taking on my wife. I was unable to help her having kidney failure, and now, this problem, it was hard to take. Now she needs two Carpal Tunnel surges on both of her wrists. So, I will have to go in center for a month or two. If I was having this problem then others in the Warren area was dealing with same issues.

We lived in Canton Ohio and never had this problem. I went back to the Water dept. to see if they were willing to make adjustments in the amount of aluminum that they were adding to the water. They said no because they get their water from Mosquito Lake and they are within the EPA guidelines.

I am asking that the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee for your help in supporting S.B. No. 143. The passing of this bill will enable many dialysis patients better health, longer life, and some sense of normalcy. There are other patients in the same position that I'm in and others who would love the benefits of home dialysis but using bags is too much for them. I thank you in advance for helping the dialysis community with this issue. It is much appreciated.

Josephus Carlton

1621 Bradford St. N.W.

Warren, OH 44485

330-268-5330