

**Proponent Testimony of
Curt Kline, Lt., USN (Ret.) Navy Mustang, Chief Petty Officer
before the Ohio Senate
Workforce & Higher Education Committee
in support of SB 153**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Ohio Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 153.

My name is Curt Kline. I served as Lieutenant in the US Navy from November 1994-March 2020. I was also a Navy Mustang and a Chief Petty Officer.

I suffered for decades with sleep disorder, depressive episodes, anxiety, adjustment disorder, relationship issues, low self-esteem, anger, and inability to focus or concentrate. I often neglected family and personal responsibilities to focus on work to keep from thinking about my life. When my career ended, I suffered severe depression due to loss of identity and failure to cope with reality, resulting in sense of worthlessness and zero motivation to do anything at all. I was beginning to contemplate taking methamphetamines just to find some kind of motivation to get off my couch in the morning. It was either that or suicide. Soon after, I heard about the Veterans NOW program, which offered Data-Driven Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (D2TMS) treatments for veterans.

I am one of only 26 patients (that I'm aware of) in the United States that has had this treatment through government trial, for free. Normally, in the private sector (the only place this currently non-FDA approved method is available), this treatment costs anywhere between \$400 and \$1,000. That's per treatment - if you can find it.

When I started D2TMS, I did not experience any significant changes to my diagnosed severe depression until after the 20th treatment. That's when I had a "lightswitch" moment, when my fog-of-depression was lifted, similar to other patients.

To get to the 20th treatment, I would've had to spend \$8,000 to \$20,000, just to get to a point where I felt some kind of improvement using something that in my experience, works.

My depression has lifted. My thoughts are much clearer, more focused. My sleep is better. I have motivation again. My anxiety has subsided. I have significantly reduced the amount of antidepressant medications I take. Previously, I quit my job over 1 year ago due to symptoms brought on by the stress of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am now employed and work for the Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), one of many positions I applied to before I learned about the TMS program. The TMS I received is directly responsible for me accepting the position I was offered at BUMED. I look forward to writing and continuing to tell my story about how the State of Ohio gave me hope and opportunity.

The state of Ohio has a real opportunity here to be pioneers in helping veterans and first responders. When this story is told, after the FDA approves, the nation and the entire world will know that Ohioans are responsible for making this happen.

I urge your support of SB 153, to increase funding for TMS to be used in Ohio and eventually the nation to heal people just like me who are suffering. SB 153 is a small price to pay to support the veterans who have given so much to our country.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer questions.

Curt Kline, LT, USN(Ret), Navy Mustang, Chief Petty Officer.
Active duty, November 1994-March 2020.