

Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee - HB 22 Proponent Testimony

Lauren Holly, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio

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Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee, my name is Lauren Holly and I am the Executive Director at the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. Thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony for HB 22, to establish a stroke registry in Ohio.

Stroke is the fifth-leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability among Americans. At the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, we serve individuals who have experienced brain injury from any cause, including strokes. Approximately thirty percent of the individuals that we serve through our services have incurred their brain injury via a stroke event. The advantage of utilizing a central stroke registry is the ability for clinicians to review trends and patterns in patient outcomes and utilize that data to improve patient care. We see daily through our helpline and support group services the devastating impact that strokes can have not only on the patient but also their families for years to come. By utilizing a statewide stroke registry, we can ensure that data is collected, outcomes tracked and transitions of care are managed to ensure forward progress in stroke care.

Ohio is currently using a registry program, the Ohio Coverdell Stroke Program, a data-driven quality improvement program for stroke treatment that provides resources to emergency medical service providers, hospital stroke teams, and other healthcare providers to provide high quality stroke care to Ohioans. The program is funded by a CDC grant, and this is not always guaranteed.

House Bill 22 would ensure that the stroke registry participation continues regardless of CDC funding in the future. Ohio's continued participation in collecting stroke data will continue to improve the care and future outcomes of Ohioans that are at risk of or incur a stroke. By using the data collected in the statewide stroke registry prevention and intervention strategies can be improved and thereby help reduce the impact not only to an individual and their family, but also to the community at large. Not only are stroke prevention activities and treatment monitored by the stroke registry, but also community transitions. As we see with all brain injury survivors, the transition from an inpatient setting back to the community is a critical juncture that can define or hinder their rehabilitation success. Often times brain injury survivors are not appropriately connected with community resources and lose momentum in their rehabilitation. With the stroke registry program, there is a focus on working to improve the connection with community based providers to ensure continued rehabilitation compliance and reduce future adverse events. We urge you to support House Bill 22 to ensure that Ohioans will have access to improved stroke care. Chariman Cutrona, Ranking Member Somani, Thank you again for your time and consideration today.