

Dear Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 236; “The Never Alone Act.”

My father was taken to the Kettering Grandview by ambulance on December 22, 2021, for fever and congestion. My brother and I took turns with him in the ER as only one person was allowed at a time. Dad was 92 years old and needed our help with various forms and information. I am my dad’s medical power of attorney, and my brother is second on dad’s list of support. While waiting in ER to see what treatment plan was going to be given, we were all approached about giving my dad “Remdesivir.” He was tested for Covid 19 and found to have pneumonia. My brother and I both told the hospital emergency nurses and doctors that we did not want our father receiving Remdesivir. My dad had low, but stable, kidney function. Upon Dad being admitted, we were no longer allowed to be with him. Dad was very cognizant when we left him. He had wanted to go home.

On the second evening Dad was in hospital, we had still not been able to visit. I received a call from one of his doctors asking if I would consent to giving dad Remdesivir. I gave them an adamant no! When I asked to speak to my dad, a short time later, he was so confused he didn’t know how to use a telephone. He was very unstable, unable to do the simplest things. When we were finally given permission to visit, December 25th, our dad was no longer the man we knew. He was so bad after two weeks in hospital, we had to send him to hospice. He briefly became aware while in Hospice, then declined rapidly. He passed away on January 13th, 2022. When I received his hospital records it was noted that he had been given Remdesivir.

Had I or my brother been given complete access to Dad during his entire hospital stay I believe he would have lived a good while longer. He had been outside working on the house a week before this happened. He was a veteran and loved his country.

Please prevent this from happening to other individuals who are unable to advocate for themselves.

I ask the committee members to please vote yes on HB 236.



Sincerely, Mrs. Roxie Fiste