

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: Friday, April 28th, 2023

Name: Kyriaki Vassil

Are you representing: Yourself

Organization (If Applicable): Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

Position/Title: First Year Medical Student

City: Columbus, OH

Phone Number: 717-341-9081

Email: *kv958822@ohio.edu*

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 89

Specific Issue: Regards intimate examination of anesthetized, unconscious patient

Are you testifying as a: Proponent

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.) How much time will your testimony require? 10 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

From the first days of medical school, we are taught that everything we do is “about the patient”, meaning that we act as physicians to help, not to harm. I pursued a career in medicine so that I could play a critical role in treating and supporting my patients through some of the most vulnerable, intimate, and sometimes even terrifying parts of their lives. As a medical student, I hold in the highest regard the sacred trust and vulnerability that is involved in the physical-patient relationship. When I learned that unconsented intimate exams are still legal in some states despite a rapid shift in the social and cultural climate of medicine, I decided to become involved in advocating for HB 89 in the state of Ohio. Patients must give informed consent prior to having an intimate exam performed, whether or not they will be conscious for it. As medical students, we learn how to perform these types of exams from willing standardized patients who have consented to being examined for the sake of our learning, and it is only right that real patients are afforded the same

degree of autonomy. We are all patients, and there is no place for unconsented intimate exams on anesthetized patients in the field of medicine.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.