



Wexner
Medical
Center

College of Medicine
Department of Orthopaedics

The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center—
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and
Richard Solove Research Institute

Joel Mayerson, MD, FAAOS, FAOA
Musculoskeletal Oncology
Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery
241 W. 11th Avenue, Suite 6081,
Columbus, OH, 43201
Phone (614) 293-4420
FAX (614) 293-3747

The Honorable P. Scott Lipps
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Floor 13
Columbus, Ohio 43215

September 24, 2023

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill #34 – Hank’s Law

Dear State Representative Lipps:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Senate Bill #34, Hank’s Law, where the intent is to designate one calendar month annually as “Sarcoma Awareness Month”. This is currently celebrated nationally in July each year. Sarcoma is a very rare form of cancer that occurs in connective tissues such as bone, muscle, tendon, cartilage, nerve sheath, and blood vessels. This group of rare cancers encompasses approximately one percent of cancers in humans and ten percent of tumors in dogs. Available treatments are comprised of chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and radical surgery that often lead to serious quality of life issues in the post-operative surveillance period.

Increased awareness is needed since there have been no essentially new forms of therapy introduced since the late 1970s. Without treatment advances, the overall survival for sarcoma remains under fifty percent at five years. Dogs have an increased prevalence of sarcoma and therefore represent an outstanding model to study human sarcoma disease. As such, new therapies can be rapidly moved from the laboratory bench into clinical trials, and collaborations between faculty at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine have made important progress in understanding the cancer biology of both canine and human patients needed as we develop new therapies relevant to both dogs and humans. Passage of Senate Bill #34 will increase public awareness of the imperative to develop new therapies for this all too often lethal human and canine form of cancer. I appreciate the opportunity to bring these realities to your attention and ask both that you bring this bill to the House floor and for your vote to pass Senate Bill #34 into law.

As the Medical Director of Sarcoma Services at The James Cancer Hospital at the Wexner Medical Center/The Ohio State University College of Medicine, I would be honored to give you a tour of the facilities at our institution if you would like to pay us a visit. We have one of the most comprehensive sarcoma centers in the entire country that allows us to provide cutting edge care

options to the citizens of the State of Ohio. Passage of SB #34 will help us improve the care we provide to people from all over Ohio and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Mayerson".

Joel Mayerson, MD, FAAOS, FAOA
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Medical Director, Perioperative Services
Medical Director, Sarcoma Services
The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute
Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery
Chief, Division of Musculoskeletal Oncology
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
241 W. 11th Avenue, Suite 6081, Columbus, OH, 43201
614-293-4420 Office / 614-293-3747 Fax
Joel.Mayerson@osumc.edu