April 5, 2023

The Honorable Theresa Gavarone
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Theresa Gavarone,

My name is Marisol Fick, and I am currently in nursing school at the Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am set to graduate on May 5, 2023, and receive my Registered Nurse diploma. As I head into the workforce, healthcare issues will begin to influence me and my ability to fulfill my role as a nurse. I am passionate about making changes in healthcare to better the community and provide the best resources possible to patients. Preventative education can provide change and decrease rates of disease and injury.

I noticed on your website Senate bill number 57 titled Designate Ohio Stroke Awareness Month is in the process of being passed by the Senate. I feel this bill would be a great way to bring awareness to the danger of strokes and the long-term effects they can have. My grandmother had a stroke back in 2016 and it left her highly disabled for the rest of the time she was alive. Decreasing one's risk of having a stroke through education can make a world of a difference. Strokes can have a major effect on one's physical, emotional, and financial well-being. I feel creating a month designated to bring awareness and providing resources to those who are at risk, who have experienced a stroke, and to the families/caregivers of these individuals could be a positive action.

If May became Stroke Awareness Month education could be provided through social media, flyers throughout the community, educational meetings, and more. The community could be educated on risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, and smoking and how to reduce these. If someone does experience a stroke their family members need to be educated on the signs such as weakness on one side of the body, changes in speech, blurred vision, and loss of balance. If someone notices these signs, they need to know the importance of time. This bill could hopefully create conversations within homes to be more aware.

Overall, I believe you should consider passing this bill because it could make a positive impact on communities across the state. Hopefully, by providing resources and education the rate of stroke incidence and the effects of a stroke can be significantly decreased.

Sincerely,

Marisol Fick
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