

To all Public Health Committee Members,

Last March my wife Debra was diagnosed with ALS. At the time her life expectancy was two to five years. Luckily, and with a lot of research and letter writing, she was accepted into an FDA Phase 2 Trial of an experimental stem cell transplant treatment along with 47 other subjects. Sadly there is a 25% chance she has received the placebo. We won't know for a couple of more months.

It takes about 10 to 15 years for a treatment or drug to get through the FDA trial process. Therein lies the problem. Deb and many many other terminally ill patients don't have that much time left!

Please approve House Bill 6709 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO TRY EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS and give these people a chance. Besides, allowing these people an opportunity to try experimental drugs is nothing more than an FDA Phase 2 trial without all of the paperwork and wasted time. I believe the recent Ebola outbreak is a good example. Once the virus hit the US, the experimental treatment was handed out like candy!

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony,
Timothy L. Gove
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