

January 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB 1207. The last four years have been difficult for my family. We have done our best to protect the vulnerable members, which included a loss of my sister who was battling cancer, and small victories with protecting my now 84 year old mother from potentially getting a virus that would kill her.

In April of 2021, my Mother was convinced by friends of her own age to get a vaccination to protect her from COVID. She received the J & J shot one week prior to the announcement that it was causing blood clots in some recipients. By June, she started developing what appeared to be edema in her lower extremities. In August of that year, she was hospitalized with clots in both legs and lungs. She has since then had to take expensive blood thinners and now has been diagnosed with Lymphedema.

Lymphedema causes inflammation in both her feet and legs. The treatment has been proven to be both cumbersome and very expensive. She has many allergies and the normal treatment methods have caused great difficulties in trying to treat her. On top of this, her veins have become very frail from the blood thinners. Also, she will never be able to get knee surgery to fix her knees as there is no doctor that will perform it with her on the blood thinners.

The reason I am writing you is I take her to at least 2 doctor visits a week. In the privacy of the doctor's visits, most of the staff will agree that her condition was probably attributed to the side effects of the vaccine. Although those same doctors seem almost reluctant to speak to that fact in the hallways of the facilities in which they practice.

There are many people that I have spoken to that have experienced similar circumstances. I am not encouraged by doctors who are not allowed to formulate an opinion publicly. At the very least, there should be access made available to the public about stories such as these so the individuals are able to calculate their own approach to their medical decisions.