

HB 1406 - Relating to studying vaccines and the medical liability of a governmental entity.

Testimony - Suzanna Newell

My name is Suzanna Newell. I went from triathlete and long distance biker to wheelchair after having a severe reaction after my second Pfizer shot on April 13, 2021. I worked in Financial Services as a VP in Corporate America for over 25 years and I am now on disability. I suffer with nerve damage, heart issues including supraventricular tachycardia and postural orthostatic tachycardia, dizziness, blood coagulation, brain fog, muscle twitching, right pupil dilation issues, tinnitus, debilitating spine and joint pain, just to name a few. My entire life turned upside down overnight.

Immediately after having a severe reaction I expected both my government and the healthcare institutions would be very interested in my issues. I was wrong. After making calls to the CDC, Department of Health, Pfizer, and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System it became quickly apparent I had been left to navigate these scary new symptoms on my own and no one was interested in tracking my progress or supporting me medically or financially. Thankfully, I connected online with a number of other covid vaccine injured people with symptoms just like mine. They became my lifeline. I joined other injured professionals, lawyers, doctors, nurses and am now on the Board of React19. We are a grassroots non profit of injured helping the injured. We are doing the job we thought our government would do. We fundraised and created a React CARE Fund to help those most in need pay some of their medical bills. We are now trying to build a Research Fund so we can do the research we hoped our government would be doing on us. Just as money, time, and research is being granted to study and support those with Long COVID, we are real, we are suffering and we deserve the same. Our symptoms are similar in many ways, yet we have been not only ignored, but hidden, censored and silenced.

It has been more than 2 years that COVID vaccine injured individuals have been suffering. We are out hundreds of thousands of dollars seeking treatment. I wholeheartedly support this bill and hope that all states follow suit. It is time the government acknowledges we exist, tracks and researches our reactions appropriately, and compensates us at the very least for our medical expenses. This is an issue of humanity. I hope you join us on the right side of history and support those suffering and those who have lost their lives by supporting this bill. Thank you.