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Senator Raymond D. Rawson

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, my name is Matthew Warneke. I am representing my daughter Annastacia as well as myself. I am writing in support of AB315. The need for an updated cancer registry is great. There must be a system in place to recognize what types of cancers are being diagnosed and where the patients live. In most investigations, the recognition does not come about until years have past, and vital medical information is lost.

My daughter is part of the Fallon Leukemia Cluster. She was diagnosed July 19, 2000. She is not placed into the registry. In order for her to be placed into the registry, her doctor would have to pay a fee to the registry and then submit the paperwork.

There needs to be a system that would make reporting to the registry easier for the doctors, allowing them to report any diagnosis immediately and with no fees. It should make reporting faster and more convenient.

The registry needs to be able to identify cases by zip code, so that any similarities in diagnosis can be easily recognized. As it stands now, it takes years before the data is looked over. Clusters are not recognized until years after the fact; allowing information to be lost.

The only reason the Fallon cluster was recognized is because of the dedication of the Infusion Center Manager at Churchill Community Hospital. If it were not for her, Fallon's cluster would not have been recognized for years to come and any of the investigations that have taken place would have never been.

Sincerely,

Matthew Warneke
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