



September 11, 2020

Chairman Dave Burke
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Burke,

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (ARM) to express support for HB 412 and to recommend its passage by the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee.

ARM is the leading international advocacy organization dedicated to realizing the promise of regenerative medicines and advanced therapies. ARM promotes legislative, regulatory and reimbursement initiatives to advance this innovative and transformative sector, which includes cell therapies, gene therapies and tissue-based therapies. Early products to market have demonstrated profound, durable and potentially curative benefits that are already helping thousands of patients worldwide, many of whom have no other viable treatment options. Hundreds of additional product candidates contribute to a robust pipeline of potentially life-changing regenerative medicines and advanced therapies. In its 11-year history, ARM has become the voice of the sector, representing the interests of 360+ members worldwide, including small and large companies, academic research institutions, major medical centers and patient groups.

As you know, HB 412 would establish a Rare Disease Advisory Council that would bring together a broad array of people with both expertise in rare diseases and a vested interest in improving patients' lives. The Council would provide an important means for them to educate and advise Ohio policymakers on advances in treatment options for rare diseases, care requirements and other challenges facing patients and their families. There are more than 7,000 rare diseases and it is estimated that 1 in 10 Americans, thus 1 in 10 Ohioans, are impacted by one of

them. By enacting HB 412, Ohio will serve as a leader -- setting the example for other states to follow.

ARM appreciates your continued support of HB 412 and the actions of the committee to date. We look forward to working with you and the original sponsors of the bill, Representatives Clites and Ginter, to advance this important bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Paige A. Bischoff
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs

cc: Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Representative Randi Clites
Representative Tim Ginter