

Dear Senator Johnson,

My name is Amanda Lucius. I am writing to ask for answers and accountability regarding the death of my husband, Brent Lucius, whom I believe was a victim of hospital protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brent was a loving, healthy, and active 34-year-old husband and father. We had been together since 2007 and married since 2009. We had four children, ages 17, 13, 11, and 7. Brent devoted his life to his family, worked hard to provide for us, and coached our children in little league football and baseball. He was generous, caring, and loved by everyone who knew him.

On October 18, 2021, Brent developed mild sinus symptoms. By October 20, he had developed a fever, body aches, and diarrhea. On October 22, he tested positive for COVID-19. For several days, he appeared to improve, and we believed he was recovering. However, early on October 27, Brent told me he needed to go to the emergency room. This was extremely unusual because, throughout our years together, he had never said that before.

At Tiffin Mercy Hospital, Brent was placed on a BiPAP oxygen mask. He also complained of pain and numbness in his left leg. Doctors diagnosed him with COVID pneumonia and said he needed to be transferred to St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo. Because weather prevented a life-flight, an ambulance was arranged. We were then told Brent needed to be intubated before transportation and that refusing intubation would require signing a DNR. His records show that at approximately 7:00 a.m., his blood pressure was 124/79, pulse was 106, and oxygen saturation was 92%. Around 10:15 a.m., he was intubated. That was the last time I saw my husband conscious and able to speak.

After Brent arrived at St. Vincent's, communication became increasingly difficult. I often felt I was not being fully informed about his condition. Significant medical events occurred without my knowledge, including a severe blood pressure episode, a blood transfusion, and the development of atrial fibrillation. During the 14 days I was not permitted to visit him, I received only one call from a physician, and much of that conversation concerned ECMO.

When I was finally able to visit, I began researching possible treatments and asked the doctors about additional options. I was told there were no more options and that they were only keeping Brent alive. I struggled to accept this because I believed he deserved every reasonable opportunity to recover.

Brent received numerous powerful medications, including Tocilizumab, Fentanyl, Propofol, Nimbex, Precedex, and Midazolam, for extended periods. I questioned whether these medications and the overall treatment approach were affecting his ability to recover and whether other options should have been considered.

On November 15, 2021, nineteen days after entering the hospital, Brent died. I had briefly been asked to leave his room while staff cleaned him after he had a bowel movement. Shortly

afterward, I was called back because Brent was coding. I returned to find a team performing CPR.

It is in Brent's records that when he was turned, his breathing tube became dislodged. The tube was found in his esophagus, requiring removal and replacement. Precious time passed without him receiving adequate oxygen, and his heart eventually stopped. November 15 was not supposed to be the day Brent died. We are left with devastating grief and unanswered questions.

I am asking for accountability and transparency regarding what happened to Brent, the treatment decisions that were made, and whether hospital protocols contributed to his death. Brent deserved every reasonable chance to fight for his life. His life mattered, our family matters, and we deserve the truth about what happened.

Sincerely,
Amanda Lucius