

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the story of my son, Justin Todd Oakes, for the record. My name is Chanda Brown. I am the mother of Justin Todd Oakes. Justin was thirty-five years old when he died at ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital in Michigan on January 2, 2022. He lived in Tennessee, but he was in Michigan because his trucking company was based there. Justin was a truck driver, a son, a brother, an uncle, and a man who loved his family deeply. Justin became sick in December 2021 while he was in Michigan. He had been off the road for a couple of weeks because he was not feeling well. After he seemed to improve, he worsened overnight. His boss found him weak and vomiting and took him to the hospital on December 18, 2021. Justin called me from the hospital and told me they were admitting him. He said they were going to give him oxygen, antibiotics, and fluids because he was dehydrated. He told me not to come yet because he thought he would only be there a couple of days. I spoke with him every day, and he sounded good. Then I received a call that he was being moved to the ICU. I left Tennessee and drove to Michigan. When I arrived, Justin was still awake and talking. He was sitting in a chair. He was isolated in a room, and I had to sit outside in the hallway and speak to him through glass. I offered to wear a mask, gloves, or whatever was required, but I was not allowed in the room. Justin told me he had been asking for water, but they would not give it to him. Justin had specifically said he did not want Remdesivir. When I arrived, I asked the nurses if they had given it to him. I was told no that he had refused it and had not received it. Shortly before he died, a nurse told me she had looked at his records and that he had received one dose of Remdesivir. When I later obtained his medical records, I saw that he had received more than one dose. In fact, it was 4 doses! His records also showed Baricitinib, also known as Olumiant. After he was placed on the ventilator, I saw in his records that he was given medications including fentanyl, propofol, lorazepam, midazolam, and paralytics. I have worked as a pharmacy technician for twenty-four years. When I reviewed the records, I was alarmed by the medications he received and by what happened to his kidney and liver function afterward. Before Justin was put on the ventilator, he told me, "Mom, just take my dog and go home because they're trying to kill me." After they ventilated him, I refused to leave the hospital. I stayed outside his room in the hallway. I watched at least one person die every day in that ICU. I was not allowed to touch my son until after he died. Near the end, I was told his organs were shutting down. When they asked whether I wanted them to bring him back if he coded, I said no because everything had already shut down and I did not want them to hurt him anymore. Justin died on January 2, 2022. I do not believe my son died from COVID. Based on what I witnessed and what I later saw in his medical records, I believe the hospital protocol and medications killed him. Justin was my firstborn child. I had him when I was eighteen, and we grew up together. His brothers looked up to him. His family loved him. He should still be here. I am submitting this statement because my son's life mattered, and what happened to him needs to be investigated and entered into the record.