

Honorable Senator Ron Johnson, Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

My name is Christine Champion and my husband is Thomas Champion. He died July, 29, 2021 as a result of seeking treatment from Honor Health in Phoenix Arizona, and I am requesting that Tom's story be entered into the official record with regards to the COVID era hospital protocols.

Tom was my best friend and the love of my life. He is deeply loved and missed. He deserved better than this.

Tom had been fighting the flu the previous 1 ½ weeks and had been admitted to Banner Health for confusion and a high fever. He was treated with liquids for dehydration, given antibiotics and multiple tests. Upon discharge, it was confirmed he did not have any infection, no blood poisoning, his lungs were clear, his heart strong and healthy and his liver and kidneys were healthy, although his kidneys were low functioning, which we were both already aware of. He was diagnosed as having COVID but was treated and released back to me and feeling better on July 21st.

Two days later, July 23rd, our home oxygen meter read his O2 levels below 80, and I called the paramedics who advised I take him to the ER, which I did. We drove ourselves and he was admitted for low oxygen without any other symptoms. He called complaining about having diarrhea and being forced into a diaper. I later was informed they inserted a tube into his rectum. Our wishes that he be let up to go himself and be given anti diarrhea medication were ignored.

Tom was transferred to the ICU 2 days later. The Pulmonologist who was treating him told me 'He is 75 and it's not looking good for him'. The exact same phrase was said to me by the Hospitalist. I insisted they give him his prescription ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, both of which I sent in with him, but they refused and would not allow him to have his own prescription medications. I also insisted Remdesivir not be given to Tom, but they administered it anyway against his will and mine. I was completely helpless in seeking proper treatment for my husband and was denied my many requests to come be with him.

Tom was restrained, and denied food and water. Tom called to complain how thirsty and hungry he was and that they refused to let him eat or drink. When I addressed this with the nursing staff, they said he refused a feeding tube and water would aspirate so he wasn't allowed any. He was forced onto a bipap against his will, even so far as being noted in the hospital records that he was fighting to get it off his face. July 27th, I was told to arrange for palliative care, as he wouldn't make it. After a full day delay, he was brought home. His arms and hands were covered in bruises and he was not breathing, but still alive from the bipap forcing air into him. His body was ice cold and stiff but his eyes were open and filled with pain and panic. Upon receiving the morphine, he slipped away very quickly.

I had no ability to advocate for my husband or for Tom to advocate for himself. He was subjected to cruel, painful and inhumane treatment rather than receiving the proper medical care we believed in good faith he should have received. In reviewing his hospital records, I saw a 'DNR' authorization which I did not authorize. I don't know how long he was forced to suffocate with no relief and no pain medication due to this falsified DNR, but his body temperature seemed to indicate hours.

Sincerely,

Christine Champion