

Dear Senator

I am writing to document my husband's COVID-19 hospitalization and to express my serious concerns regarding the medical care he received, the decisions made during his treatment, and the misinformation provided to our family.

My husband developed COVID-19 symptoms on November 4, 2021. On November 9, he went to the hospital seeking treatment. Based on my understanding of the treatment guidelines at that time, he presented within a period when early interventions may still have been considered. However, we were told that he was already "too far gone" for anything!

The hospital released only a small stack of documents, which could not have represented his entire medical file given that his hospitalization lasted nearly four months.

When my husband arrived, I was informed that his oxygen saturation was approximately 98%. Despite this, his condition was presented to us as extremely severe, and he was quickly moved to intensive care. Within days, he progressed from oxygen through a nasal cannula and mask to discussions about mechanical ventilation.

On November 18, 2021, I received a call informing me that my husband was deteriorating and would be placed on a ventilator. I was told this would be a controlled procedure and safer than waiting for an emergency. I was led to believe ventilation would be temporary, and I recall being told that many patients remained on ventilators for approximately five to seven days. Unfortunately, this was not the case for my husband.

Nor were we informed of what that would cause to his lungs brain etc.

Throughout his hospitalization, I attended meetings with members of his medical team and repeatedly advocated for additional treatment options. I specifically requested consideration of ivermectin and other therapies I believed might help, but my requests were denied.

For an extended period, I was not permitted to visit him because of hospital restrictions. He remained isolated from his family for months. It was not until the end of January, after persistent efforts and assistance from a hospital chaplain, that I was finally allowed one hour of visitation per day. By then, my husband had suffered a significant decline.

I encountered a small number of staff members whom I genuinely believed were trying to help patients and families under extremely difficult circumstances. However, I also heard statements such as, "My hands are tied," which left me concerned that all available options were not being fully pursued.

Another major concern was ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation). Earlier in his hospitalization, our family was given reason to believe ECMO might be an option. Later, we were told he was too fragile to transfer and subsequently that he was too old to qualify. My husband was only 52 years old. Aside from being slightly overweight, he had no significant

diagnosed medical conditions that, to my knowledge, would explain why potentially life-saving measures were not pursued more aggressively.

I also recall my husband calling me shortly after arriving at the hospital and telling me he had been diagnosed with double COVID pneumonia. He reported that a triage nurse criticized him for not being vaccinated and referenced his ethnicity and weight in a manner he found upsetting and inappropriate.

Since losing my husband, I have connected with many other widows and families affected by COVID-19. I understand that no treatment can guarantee survival. My concern is not that any specific treatment would certainly have saved his life, but that I do not believe he was given a fair opportunity to benefit from every available option, and that our family was not provided complete, consistent, or transparent information. Moreover was giving life-threatening medication's that actually made him worse!

Our lives changed overnight. My husband was 52 years old, and we were completely unprepared for what followed.

I am writing our tragic story as brief as I can to fill the required spaces

Thank you

Elena Gonzalez