

Dear Senator Johnson.

Below is my statement regarding my late husband, Steven Edward Brandow. Steve was a 56 year-old retired NYPD officer when he died. He was active and healthy before Covid 19.

My family got Covid 19 of December 2020. First my husband, then me and lastly our teenage son. Steve tested positive on 12/21/20 and for the next week, his cough would get worse and fever was not breaking. At that time, we were told to stay home until you felt worse, had chest pains or could not breathe. On the morning of December 27th, I fainted went to the hospital by ambulance because I had a bad gash and was bleeding on my forehead. My oxygen was 86 due to dehydration from fever. They monitored me for the day, in case it was heart trouble and then released me that evening. I was given many stitches for the wound and given antibiotics for onset of pneumonia in the left lung. The following day, on Dec 28th, I took my husband to the same hospital because he had a very high fever, bad cough, had lost his appetite, was not drinking water and seemed confused. The hospital, South Nassau (now Mt. Siani) in Oceanside, NY admitted him and he was diagnosed with double pneumonia.

He spent 1.5 weeks in the hospital and given many different medicines and treatments such as antibiotics, steroids, plasma, and including daily dose of Remdesivir. I have an 800+ page hospital report, of all the medicine and treatment he was given. I had asked for Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine under the "right to try" passed by the Federal government at that time, however was told it was ineffective and denied. On January 6, 2021 would be the last time I spoke to Steve. We said goodnight and the following day, I received a call that he developed ARDS - Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome overnight and had to be put on a ventilator.

Since Steve was healthy before Covid he qualified for Life support "ECMO", which I was told would give his lungs a chance to rest & recover and transported to Mt. Siani hospital in NYC. He was tied down and heavily sedated because according to the doctor he was "still strong like a horse" and for his own good. It was difficult to see him so helpless and not being able to communicate. I am however, grateful that I was allowed to visit my husband there and every night, I would call and get an update on his stats.

Over the next few weeks, I was hopeful and prayed he would be able to come off the machine. Tragically, after 4 weeks he started to get one infection after another and not able to come off the machine to breathe on his own. He passed on 2/22/21. I believe he should have been given Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine to try like we requested, perhaps Steve would be alive today. We will never know. Steve's insurance company was billed appx. \$1 million dollars.

My family is devastated and broken. We will never recover over his death. I have long Covid symptoms, on medication and being treated for Trauma and anxiety. I was widowed at 51 years and my life will never, ever be the same.

Thank you for your help and God Bless you for fighting on our behalf. Until there is justice and the visibility of all the Covid deaths, we will not be at peace. We are the forgotten family of the Covid that plagued our nation and world.

Sincerely,

Gladys Brandow