

Jennifer Ambrose Blume

South Carolina

Daughter of Michael Ambrose

Chairman and Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

My name is Jennifer Ambrose Blume, and I am here to speak about my father, Michael Ambrose, who died on February 9, 2022, after being hospitalized at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital (Roper) in Charleston, South Carolina during the COVID pandemic. Since his death, our family has lived with the pain and trauma of what occurred during his hospitalization. Based on what I personally witnessed, I have serious concerns about the care he received and the policies that governed patient treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. My father was a husband, father, grandfather ("Poppy"), veteran, retired police officer, and a man who dedicated his life to serving others. He was deeply loved by his family and community, and he deserved compassionate, transparent, patient-centered care. During his hospitalization, we encountered barriers to communication and participation in medical decisions. We witnessed isolation from loved ones, lack of any informed consent, deprivation of adequate nutrition and hydration and basic care, denial of treatments we requested be considered, and the administration of powerful and toxic medications and treatments that did not align with my father's or our wishes, including Remdesivir and the ventilator to name a few. These experiences left us feeling powerless and devastated. What I witnessed as a daughter should concern and terrify every American. Many families across the country have reported similar experiences during the pandemic. Whether caused by policy failures, hospital protocols, or other systemic issues, these matters deserve thorough and transparent investigation. I respectfully request that my father's story be entered into the public record as part of any examination of patient treatment during the COVID-19 response. I also ask that the Committee fully investigate the experiences of patients and families who fell victims to dangerous hospital protocols and believe they were denied transparency, informed consent, or meaningful participation in medical decisions. Michael Ambrose mattered. He was more than a statistic and should still be here today. He deserved dignity, truthful information, and the opportunity for informed medical choice. Our family continues to live with profound grief and the haunting realization that the system we trusted failed and wronged him completely. The American people deserve a full and honest accounting of what occurred during this unprecedented period in our nation's healthcare system. I am willing to provide additional information or testify regarding my family's experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Ambrose Blume