

Dear Committee Chairman,

My name is Alene Pedigo. My husband Richard L. Pedigo died August 14, 2021 by euthanasia of a fatal cocktail of Fentanyl, Morphine, and Propofol at Ascension Riverpark Hospital in our hometown of McMinnville, TN. We had both contracted COVID in late July. I drove Richard to ER. He was admitted and placed on the 3rd floor COVID ward in isolation. He had no contact with family due to strict rules. He called on the 3rd day to say he finally had gotten something to eat and drink. He was weak and could barely speak, but I asked Richard it has been 3 days are you sure? He said yes and that he was so weak. This made no sense. He was type 2 diabetic. He was denied life saving medications and protocols after repeated requests from me. The hospitalist and drs only allowed FDA and CDC approved protocols which weakened and destroyed his health. He was denied to be moved to another hospital. I was told that it would not matter because they were all following the same FDA approved protocols. Richard's freedoms and patients rights were violated.

The first person I spoke to after only calls by a social worker was the hospitalist. It was a couple of days into his stay. I was verbally berated, "Mrs. Pedigo, do you realize that no one in your family has taken the vaccine? Your husband is a very sick man and will probably die as a result of this!" One day he called to inform me that Richard had refused Remdisivir. He was very angry that he had refused it and told me would probably die as a result of not taking it. I asked for Immune Antibody therapy to be told that it was administered as outpatient, not inpatient treatment. I asked for Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine, and an IV of vitamin C plus Zinc to be told over and over, "that is against FDA PROTOCOLS and we don't do that here!" They administered high flow O2 and gave morphine that hurt respiration. The usual treatments for pneumonia were not administered. He was bedridden and placed in ICU. The family was told he was going to die even though he ate dinner while we watched in 90+ heat outside his window. I was told by a nurse on the 1st day in ICU that he would die. She was angry and snapped, "Why didn't he just take the shots?" We were told he was going to die every time a dr or nurse came outside. Richard ate his last meal tearing into it as if he was starved. All day, I watched and did not see him eat or drink, only on O2. The nurse said eating only depleted his O2.

I was called in the middle of the night to tell me he had been ventilated and was dying. I begged to come to be with him. The night physician had to get it approved. I later received a call to come in at 6:00 am. I was met with the last dr. to tell me that if he was taken off the ventilator he would die or be disabled. He told me hospice would be the best option if he didn't want to live on a machine. I asked if he could come home. He told me he would not make it before gasping for air. I broke down and signed the papers to end his life. I asked how long he would last. He said 4.5 hrs max. Richard lasted >5.5 hrs. I later knew I had been lied to and played emotionally. We were married almost 37 yrs.