

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Teresa Cichewicz, and I am here to speak about my father, Robert Michanowicz, who died at Munson Charlevoix Area Hospital in Michigan in December 2021.

My father was 70 years old. He was deeply loved by his family and should still be here today. Instead, within days of entering the hospital, I watched him become isolated from our family, physically restrained, denied treatments we specifically requested, and placed onto a treatment path that we did not believe was in his best interest.

From the beginning, my family and I believed my father was treated differently because he was unvaccinated. Once that status was known, the attitude of hospital staff toward both him and our family noticeably changed. Rather than discussing individualized treatment options or listening to our concerns, we were met with resistance and dismissiveness.

We repeatedly requested treatments including Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine, but those requests were refused. The only treatment consistently pushed was Remdesivir. My family and I never felt we were given meaningful informed consent regarding the risks associated with the medications being administered to him.

As his hospitalization progressed, my father's condition deteriorated rapidly. He was given Morphine and physically restrained while isolated from the people who loved him most. Watching my father lose both his health and his dignity while feeling powerless to intervene was one of the most traumatic experiences of my life.

The isolation policies made everything worse. My family and I were shut out from meaningful participation in his care while major decisions were made behind closed doors. Communication was controlled by the hospital, and despite our efforts to advocate for him, we felt our voices no longer mattered once he entered that system.

What continues to haunt me is the overwhelming feeling of helplessness. I believed my father deserved individualized care, transparency, and the right to have his family involved in critical decisions affecting his life. Instead, I felt we were watching him decline while being denied both options and meaningful advocacy.

My father was not simply a COVID patient. He was a husband, a father, and a human being who mattered deeply to his family. He deserved dignity, truthful information, and compassionate medical care.

I am here today asking that my father's story be part of the official record and that the treatment decisions, hospital policies, and denial of requested medications surrounding his care be fully examined and investigated.

Thank you for hearing my father's story and for allowing families like mine the opportunity to speak publicly about what we experienced.