

Testimony

My name is Elliott Wack, and I live in Catonsville, Maryland. Last year, a close friend of mine had a stroke and was admitted to the hospital. Because seemingly healthy twenty-six-year-olds don't typically have strokes, I was terrified. She lost vision in both eyes for nearly a month; CT scans revealed tumors in her thyroid and lymph nodes, more in her lungs. She has stage IV thyroid cancer.

My friend is going through chemotherapy now. Her hair is thinning, and her skin is sallow. She teaches elementary school special education, and she used to juggle the chaos of her life with ease, but now her eyes are listless when she talks to me. I never expected to see that expression on her face.

When I was in high school, my grandfather was also diagnosed with cancer. His health declined rapidly, and two years after his diagnosis, he was dead. I wondered if better testing or earlier screening might have prolonged his life. Now, I wonder if it might have helped my friend

Please pass this bill. It will save the lives of your neighbors, your friends, your teachers, and your constituents.