

Dear Senator Lenett,

Teresa updated me last week on her conversation with Ms. Kronmiller and Mr. Vaughan of the Office of Health Care Quality. My understanding is that they provided her with deficiency reports that went out as a result of my complaint, told her that my father's case was thoroughly investigated and that they consider it closed.

At the risk of repetition I wanted to reiterate the key points we discussed so that you can maintain perspective: OHCQ is unwilling to investigate the focal issue brought to their attention from the get go -- that my father was euthanized against his will by a rogue doctor who lost control of himself and decided that, religious beliefs and [Maryland law \(§ 5-606\(b\)\)](#) notwithstanding, it was time for Israel Neustadter to die. And Senator, please understand that if my father would have been terminally ill and this was "merely" a question of principle, I would not be wasting your time. The problem is that he was not terminally ill, was previously in good health, was full-code, and [most of the treating doctors](#) (and me) believed that my father stood every chance of surviving.

I provided OHCQ with unprecedented proof in the form of sworn testimony, of what can only be called patient abandonment. As we've discussed, if Dr. Shamim turned my critically ill father's care completely over to Dr. Weiner at the pivotal decision-making moment, yet Dr. Weiner says he was never there, while nursing notes are virtually nonexistent, it is reasonable to inquire as to who was in charge of my father's care. The evidence I provided clearly suggests that one of the doctors is lying. Common sense also suggests that a patient cannot lie in a hospital bed in acute respiratory distress without his nurses taking notice and asking for immediate guidance.

I trust you would agree that the events described above mandate an investigation. Put another way, you clearly cannot claim this case was properly investigated unless you've investigated the hand-off issue. Put still another way, if you've investigated everything but the key issue, and even offer to check up on how the hospital is performing today in lieu of investigating the key issue, you're trying to cover up the key issue and spare the doctors from being held accountable for their actions.

Upon my third visit to OHCQ I gave them the same [trial transcripts](#) that I provided to you. Nurse Vaughan acknowledged that the hand-off was the central issue and should have been investigated. He [promised me that it would now be investigated](#). He [reversed course](#) shortly thereafter.

Senator, I am not suggesting that you can tell OHCQ how to conduct an investigation or what outcome they should reach. You should however be able to tell them, that given the evidence your constituent provided, you are expecting them to conduct an investigation of the hand-off of my father's care (and the life-and-death decisions inherent) from Dr. Shamim to Dr. Weiner on March 26, 2003.

Thanks again for your efforts, and for your willingness to try to help,

Al Neustadter