



JOHN GERRETSEN, MPP

Kingston and The Islands

May 3, 2011

Ken Allan
56 Wiley Street
Kingston, ON K7K 5B4

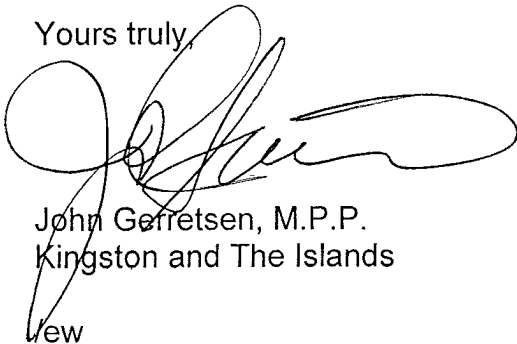
Dear Mr. Allan:

Thank you for requesting a meeting with me last week and bringing forward your concerns about the province's recent announcement that it will only approve genetic testing ordered by a genetist and the effect this decision will have on patient testing. I was very impressed with your knowledge of arrhythmic diseases and your commitment to raising awareness about these silent killers.

I enclose herein a copy of a letter I have forwarded to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-term Care which I trust you will find self-explanatory. I will contact you further as soon as I hear from her.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

Yours truly,



John Gerretsen, M.P.P.
Kingston and The Islands

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Enclosure

Community Office

LaSalle Mews, 303 Bagot Street, Suite #2, Kingston, ON K7K 5W7
Tel 613-547-2385 | Fax 613-547-5001 | Email jgerretsen.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



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May 3, 2011

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Flr., Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

I met with my constituent, Ken Allan, last week with respect to his concerns about the province's recent announcement that it will only approve genetic testing ordered by a geneticist. He feels that for high risk hereditary heart conditions this decision will likely represent both a significant delay in patient testing as there is, essentially, always a significant backlog in obtaining a consultation with a geneticist and a serious risk to obtaining a diagnosis in a timely fashion.

I understand that approximately 200 young people in Ontario die each year as a result of cardiac arrest caused by an underlying inherited heart rhythm disorder that is undiagnosed. In the past, cardiologists have been able to order genetic testing if they felt it was necessary and then integrate clinical findings with genetic test results to provide advice to patients and families. Mr. Allan is very concerned that adding extra bureaucratic layers will slow the diagnostic process and expose patients and their families to unwarranted risk.

Mr. Allan became an advocate for cardiac patients and their caregivers following the death of his daughter, Taylor, on April 26, 2008, as a result of an Arrhythmic disease

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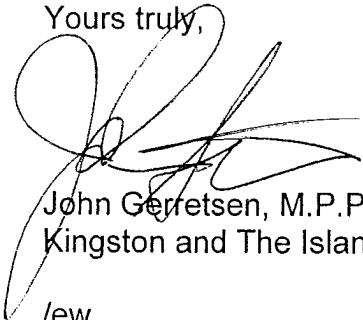
called ARVC (Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardio-myopathy). She was 16 years old and a star athlete who appeared to be in excellent health. The only "sign" that she had an illness was some fainting spells which she did not take seriously as an ER doctor told her that fainting is common in teenage girls. I am enclosing a copy of an article that appeared in Macleans in July, 2008 about Taylor's death which may give you a better understanding of Mr. Allan's concerns regarding this silent killer.

I am also enclosing herein a copy of an e-mail addressed to you which I received from Blake Hurst, who is working with Mr. Allan to raise awareness about Arrhythmic ~~_____~~ diseases. I believe Mr. Hurst has clearly set out the concerns they have with the province's proposal regarding genetic testing.

I would appreciate it if you would respond to me with respect to Mr. Allan's and Mr. Hurst's request to have this decision reviewed and amended to allow cardiologists to order genetic testing as they have done in the past.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation in providing a timely response to this inquiry.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Gerretsen', written over the printed name.

John Gerretsen, M.P.P.
Kingston and The Islands

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Enclosures
cc: Ken Allan