

Jack Weber Press Conference Talking Point

June 17, 2022

Who Am I

1. Live in Northern Virginia.

Husband. Father. I am a cancer survivor. My wife; My daughter

Dealing with the health care system intensively for more than 10 years.

Learned more than I cared to about how system works / doesn't work.

I am also nobody's fool and I have been invited to tell you **what I know**.

Talk About 3 Things Today

- We're going to talk about cancer treatment in Virginia
- Proton therapy in particular
- How cancer patients in Virginia are being cheated by insurance companies and how the political leadership in Richmond has lacked the will to address the problem.

I'm going to talk to you today as smart, common-sense adults who can tell the difference between the truth and when somebody is lying to you.

I have a personal story that I will get to, and when we're through, you will understand the issue a lot more and you will be ANGRY.

Because you'll know that people are dying in Virginia – not because we don't know how to treat them, but because politicians in Virginia have let insurance companies get away with murder.

Cancer

- Highest incidence of cancer in the Commonwealth is in Hampton Roads.

Why?

Probably the Navy; High concentration of African Americans. Black Americans suffer disproportionately from cancer. Prostate Cancer.

- What is radiation? How does it treat cancer?

Destroys DNA. DNA in cancer cells unstable. Cancer cells die.

Also impacts DNA of healthy cells. Some die. Most recover.

But radiation effects those healthy cells in unhealthy ways.

Sometimes, the radiation causes new cancers to form that otherwise would not have occurred.

ALL radiation is a bad. The less you get the better.

- Long Term Effects of Radiation (slide 1)
- What is proton radiation? Why is it different. Show and Tell
- Hampton University tried to address the problem head on. Built \$200 million proton center.

Big Deal. No state support. Only center in the state

- What happened after Hampton built the proton center. (insurance companies turned down) Experimental. Not medically necessary. This is absurd.

Would you rather be treated with unnecessary radiation that causes secondary cancers or would you rather have radiation treatment that just hits the tumor and leaves vital organs less exposed?

Would you rather get your hair cut at a beauty salon with precision clippers or would you prefer to have your lawn care company use a weed wacker on your head instead.

This is not rocket science.

- Law Passed. David Yancey. Signed by Governor McCauliffe. Emergency legislation effective immediately. (Slide 2)
- Insurance companies ignored the law.
- They flipped the bird to the Governor,
- They thumbed their nose to the House and the Senate,
- Most importantly, they told cancer patients in Virginia and their families **“GO TO HELL.”**
- How do I know? Because my wife was one of them.

Arrogance of the Insurance Industry

- Meet Doug Gray (slide3)

- Meet his Bosses (slide 4)
- Listen to what he testified to the Virginia Senate less than 3 months ago (video)
- Read what he said. (slide 6)

My mother told me to be careful with my words. Some might say that Mr. Gray is a liar. That would be harsh. I choose to say that Mr. Gray is factually challenged and in fact, Mr. Gray is PAID to be factually challenged.

- First Point. Proton Therapy is NOT accepted for prostate cancer ... and NEVER WILL BE.
- Most people with prostate cancer are older. Medicare is pretty common insurance.
- Let's do a Google Search (slide 7)
- Let's go to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (slide 8, slide 8-B)
- Mr. Gray is incorrect. Proton treatment for prostate cancer is covered by Medicare.

What Mr. Gray is really trying to say is that his association members don't WANT to pay for proton treatment for prostate cancer and many of them don't even though the federal government WILL. Now why is that? Not about health. Not about science. It's about one thing. MONEY.

(Slide 9)

Second Point. "The facts are that if it has been approved by a group of professionals as the standard, then the insurance company will recognize it.

- Again, NOT TRUE. How do I know ? Because the insurance company denied my wife's proton treatment even though it was approved by the

American Society of Radiation Oncology and I'm going to tell you that story right now.