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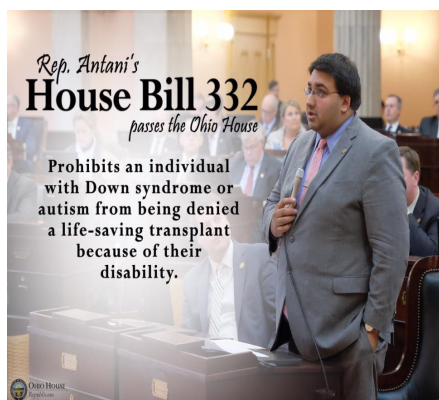
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ANTANI SHINES AS A MEMBER OF THE OHIO STATE LEGISLATURE

Columbus, Ohio – January 24, 2018: American Hindu Coalition (AHC) Advisory Board Member Niraj Antani demonstrated his courage and conviction in leading the passage of landmark legislation protecting the rights of Ohioans with disabilities.

Niraj Antani, a member of the Ohio State General Assembly from Miamisburg, is a sponsor of House-Bill 332, which prohibits discrimination against potential organ transplant recipients on the basis of a disability. House-Bill 332 passed today with a vote of 92-0. The bill now moves to the Ohio State Senate.

“Ohio residents in need of organ transplants should be entitled to assurances that they will not encounter discrimination based on a disability. This bill can and will save lives, and we all should be able to agree that no life is less valuable than any other,” Representative Antani said.

Individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities currently encounter discrimination on organ transplant waitlists. Ellie, a 3 year old Ohioan, fell gravely ill in 2014. Her parents sought a transplant for her, but were told that Ellie was not eligible because she has Down syndrome. Currently, transplant programs in Ohio either have unclear policies on the issue, or have no written policies at all. This lack of legislation has created a gap where the recipients of transplants are chosen based on the transplant center’s discretion. Unfortunately, individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities are neglected when this happens, and are not given equal consideration. If enacted into law, Ohio would become the sixth state to approve such legislation, sending a message to Ohioans with disabilities that the state will not tolerate discrimination when it comes to needing an organ or tissue transplant.

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