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RE: Healthcare Representative for
Robert (Bobby)Gabos

My name is Dr. Dennis Gabos, I am the brother of Robert (Bobby) Gabos (5/13/1951). I am one of many family members who have supported and advocated for Bobby over many years. I recently consulted with legal counsel regarding the most effective approach to formally act on my intention to share in Bobby's medical information, care plan, decision making, and consent process. Bobby has no power of attorney or guardian. Bobby is not capable of decision making. No one family member has been designated as the sole medical decision maker. My attorney's name is James R. Baker, Esquire- SIKOV AND LOVE Law Practice who will forward a cover letter. Thus, I am submitting this request with pertinent Pennsylvania State law references recommended by Attorney Baker to serve as a Healthcare Representative for Robert (Bobby) Gabos, my brother, in order that medical information may be shared with me as well participating in decision making. This in accordance with 20 Pa.C.S. § 5461.

As I stated, up to this time there has been no designated sole person for making medical decisions. My brother Richard has been a "contact" person and has been contacted for permission to proceed with low-risk testing and procedures over the years; procedures with which all family members were in agreement. I have done the same on occasion. As a brother and physician, I have always been available for necessary input. Like other family members, I have regularly visited Bobby in his monitored residence and of course in hospital and inquired of health updates.

Briefly, at age 2, encephalitis rendered Bobby very cognitively and intellectually impaired but his physical function remained intact for much of his life; able to ambulate and content in the institutional and monitored settings he has required for 72 years where he has received very good care. He has not been able to engage in meaningful conversation but has been entertained by company and may hum a song he is familiar with or make some imitative verbal response. He usually appears quite content. This radically changed about 6 years ago when he suffered a devastating stroke which paralyzed his right side becoming immobile, completely dependent, and confined to a comfortable lounge chair. This very sad event robbed him of significant function and made much less practical efforts we had made to take him out socially for a visit and meal among other limitations.

Previously, there had been no controversy or disagreement regarding Bobby's level of intensity of care among his siblings as therapies and procedures were low risk, unquestionably necessary for quality of life, and the needed interventions have occurred when the burden of his lifelong chronic illness was less than the unfortunate state that presently is the case. Thus, when he needed endoscopic esophageal dilatation many

years ago to restore his capacity to eat, we celebrated that he could again enjoy eating; one of the few pleasures in life for him. There were also minor procedures readily agreed to maintain quality of life. He has been visited regularly by family and has interacted with his caretakers which has added to his quality of life.

In light of recent changes, namely evidence of renal failure which will probably progress, his health status is becoming more complex and there will be varying opinions regarding the level of intensity of care for Bobby. There may be need for painful but realistic scrutiny of the appropriateness of advanced therapies such as dialysis vs. comfort measures and accepting the natural course of events given his profound medical morbidity. My understanding is that renal failure requiring intervention is not imminent but may occur within a year. Based on recent communications with family it is clear that not only are we a crossroads regarding Bobby's declining medical status but for the first time there may controversy regarding agreement on his medical care.

Because there may not be unanimity among family members regarding my brother's care plans it is prudent to formally submit my request to be acknowledged as a Healthcare Representative consistent with Pennsylvania Title 20 section 5461. (Please see attached). All that is required along with meeting the requirements in Section 5461 is this written intention to serve Bobby in this capacity. This will also satisfy the expectations in terms of legal standing to share information and participate in consent process. (Please see cover letter of legal counsel Attorney James Baker.)

Up to this point in time we have never had to formally document this role because all decisions up to this time have been non-controversial. In order to comply with healthcare law and state law it is prudent to do so in order that his doctors can share information with me. Other siblings may wish to be involved as well but for those who don't wish to be I will share information. By law I am compelled to inform my siblings of my acting as a Healthcare Representative. I am listed as a "contact" where my brother lives and can access some information but that does not extend outside of his residence caretakers and nurse. No one is listed as a "contact" at his primary doctor's office- Dr. Sauer but I will be listed with this designation when I submit a similar letter to him.

In this capacity, I will be able to receive medical information, participate in decision making and consent process. As I have always been available to do, I can assist my siblings and others in understanding the disease processes and options utilizing 40 years of medical practice experience and personal insights to help develop a compassionate and holistic plan for Bobby's care with his skilled physicians and my siblings.

I have included the pertinent portions of Pennsylvania state law describing the qualifications, requirements and responsibilities in such a capacity. Please acknowledge this request and include all documentation as part of Bobby's permanent chart so that other physicians are aware. I am proceeding in a similar manner with all of Bobby's physicians at this point.

I very much appreciate the kind, compassionate, detailed care that Bobby is receiving.

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I attest to the veracity of the above statement to the best of my recollection under penalty of perjury.