I would like to share my experiences with you and any others that are interested as to what the Right to Try law has meant to me and my family. In addition, I am able and willing to speak/present my story in person if there is an opportunity. If this law was not in place at the time I received my first treatment you would not be reading my story.

And now my story:

For approximately 6 months I felt a lump above my left collarbone (no other symptom). With a couple visits to my primary care physician with my concern for the lump; this fell largely on deaf ears. I pressed the issue until an Ultrasound biopsy was ordered. On September 22, 2011 (my birthday!) I was told I have cancer based on the ultrasound biopsy. The Radiologist was not certain of the cancer type as pathology and further testing needed to be performed. Following an excisional lymph node biopsy, the diagnosis returned as Pancreatic Neuroendocrine cancer.

The next three years would take me on a roller-coaster second and third opinions, multiple treatments (Sandostatin, Xloda, Temodar, Afinitor) which all made my health decline and reduced my quality of life tremendously. Neither the Oncologist that I was seeing in Orlando or Tampa suggested PRRT therapy as a primary treatment option; it was discussed as a last treatment option-always. After reaching the point of large weight loss and elevated tumor markers, I pushed the treatment option offered in Houston at the Excel Diagnostic Center. In September of 2014 we were approved for PRRT treatment! This was the best news we had heard in the past 3 years! I felt like I had been given a second chance at life. In October, we traveled to Excel Diagnostics in Houston for the first in a series of four treatments. Below is the picture of my wife and I on the plane leaving for this first treatment.

For the next two years, I had good results (positive response) with my tumors shrinking. I gained weight and my strength returned. The picture with the red shirt is from my second treatment. You can already see the healthiness one treatment returned!
In October of 2016 there was noted to be a microscopic increase of abnormal activity in my femur and was suggested to return for the last two treatments. The last treatment was completed in December, 2016. I returned in March of this year and have received my first ever, in the past five and a half years, to return for follow up in six months instead of three!

Excel Diagnostics and Nuclear Oncology Center is the only facility in the United States that has taken advantage of the Right to Try Law. Without this facility in the United States we would have traveled to Switzerland for this same treatment and follow-up appointments every three months! We are forever thankful to Dr. Delplassand and his staff for learning this treatment protocol and taking advantage of the Right to Try Law. This Law has been a life saver!

I hope my story helps move the federal bills along and as I said in the beginning I am willing to present my story to federal legislation. Please do not hesitate to call or contact me.

Please see the picture below from this past Mother’s Day outing; made possible by the Right to Try Law!

Kind Regards,

Mark Angelo