



May 27, 2015

Chairwoman Gonzales, Vice-Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Health and Aging Committee:

My name is Mary Jane Maloney and I am the Director for Government Relations for the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses. Our organization, and the more than 12,000 advanced practice registered nurses whom we represent, are committed to the safety and efficiency of healthcare using the education, training and certification that APRNs possess.

Today I address you regarding S.B. 110. This legislation is critical to removing unnecessary restrictions that impede Ohioans' access to healthcare with needless delays in patient care delivery! Much attention has been given in the crafting of this bill to ensure the highest standards of patient safety are maintained.

Here is a sample situation of the problem at hand. If an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) sees a patient and prescribes a medication to be given in a clinic setting, such as an immunization, the APRN can only delegate the administration of this medication to a licensed nurse, i.e., registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. If an RN or LPN is not available, the APRN can not delegate any medication to be given by a medical assistant which a physician may delegate and therefore, must either administer the medication herself or re-schedule the patient to return when licensed nurses are available. If the APRN chooses to administer the medication himself, patient wait times increase and available appointment times eliminated. Passage of SB 110 will allow other qualified healthcare staff, such as trained or certified medical assistants, to administer medications at the direction of the APRN.

SB 110 does impose safeguards: The bill will prohibit delegation of medication administration to non-nurses in hospital inpatient care units, ambulatory surgical facilities, or in freestanding or hospital emergency departments, where licensed nurses are available to address medication orders. Additionally, delegation of intravenous medications or controlled substances shall only be delegated to licensed nurses. Furthermore, the delegating APRN must be physically present at the location where the medication is administered by a medical assistant.

SB 110 is supported by interested parties, and improves the efficiency and patient flow in many clinic settings where APRNs direct care. Approving medication administration delegation is imperative to expeditious practice and timely drug administration ranging from immunizations and antibiotics to breathing treatments. OAAPN is not aware of any opposition to this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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