



May 27, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Gonzales, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health & Aging Committee. Thank you for allowing me to be here today. My name is Tiffany Wenter and I am a registered nurse and the Deputy Executive Officer of Operations for the Ohio Nurses Association. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 110, which will allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, holding a certificate to prescribe, the authority to delegate the administration of medications in limited circumstances.

The Ohio Nurses Association has worked diligently with the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses and the Ohio Emergency Nurses Association to create a legislative proposal that removes unnecessary barriers, while retaining necessary safeguards to protect Ohio patients. Under current law if an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) prescribes a medication to be administered at that time, the APRN may delegate its administration to a registered nurse or administer the medication personally. If enacted, the bill will allow other qualified persons, such as medical assistants, the ability to administer these medications at the direction of an APRN.

The Ohio Nurses Association found it imperative to structure limitations to the settings in which this delegation can take place, as well as restricting the delegation of certain medications. Specifically, the bill prohibits the delegation of medication administration to non-nurses in inpatient care units of hospitals or emergency departments, whether those departments are within a hospital or freestanding. This bill also prohibits the delegation of administration of a controlled substance, as well as medications administered intravenously to persons who are not registered nurses. We believe patients in these settings, being prescribed controlled substances, or being given medications intravenously have a health status that requires pharmaceuticals to be administered by a registered nurse. The bill also specifies that the APRN must be physically present at the location where the medication is being administered.

We are embarking on a pivotal time in health care where an increasing number of Ohioans have healthcare coverage and ONA feels it is essential to provide safe and timely patient care. We believe that Senate Bill 110 seeks to create a more efficient healthcare system, while ensuring the safety of our patients. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Wenter BSN, RN'.

Tiffany Wenter, BSN, RN  
Deputy Executive Officer of Operations  
Ohio Nurses Association