



**Representative Sarah LaTourette &
Representative Stephen A. Huffman**

H.B. 501 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Hill, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Patterson and Members of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 501. This legislation comes at the request of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), which seeks to standardize the requirements for veterinary technicians throughout the country and unify their title as “registered veterinary nurse.”

Ohio is a particularly good state in which to start this effort since the current education and credentialing in our state for veterinary technicians is very similar to that of an LPN and therefore, would only require a name change with no additional changes in the scope of practice or reporting authority. In other words, the NAVTA is hoping to elevate the rest of the country to Ohio’s current education and licensure standards.

Accordingly, the only change this legislation makes is to update the name of the profession from “registered veterinary technician” to “registered veterinary nurse.” This is absolutely no change in scope of practice, education, training, or credentialing. In fact, the bill specifically outlines this fact in its temporary law provision, which states “[i]n changing the term "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse," this act does not change the scope of practice of,

or the registration or certification credentials required for, such registered individuals.”

Changing the name to “registered veterinary nurse” allows the public to be better informed as to the nature of this veterinary professional’s training and experience. The more accurately descriptive title will allow Ohio’s universities, community colleges and career colleges who provide this degree to attract more students to their programs. Further, once the standards nationally are unified under this title, it will allow the registered veterinary nurses to utilize their education and degree in any state, while still allowing each state to regulate its own credentialing. In Ohio, the credentialing for the registered veterinary nurses will continue to be done by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board.

Both the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians support this legislation.

Chairman Hill and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 501. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.