



HB 501 – Proponent Testimony

March 13, 2018



Chairman Hill, Vice-Chairman Koehler, Ranking Member Patterson and members of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee:

My name is Kenichiro Yagi and I am from San Jose, California and I represent the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI) led by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). I am writing to ask you to support HB 501, which changes the title of “registered veterinary technician” to “registered veterinary nurse” in the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. It is jointly sponsored by Representatives LaTourette and Huffman and is pending in the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

I care about HB 501 because I have experienced our professional challenges by working in the veterinary field for 18 years with earlier parts as a non-credentialed staff member, and as a registered veterinary technician for the past 10 years; I interact with veterinary technicians around the nation as an active certified veterinary technician specialist in Emergency and Critical Care as well as Small Animal Internal Medicine with a master’s degree in veterinary science and as the chair of NAVTA state representative committee. Through exchanging of experience around the nation, it became clear we shared the challenges of poor public and professional understanding of our credential. The answer “Yes, absolutely” resonated at the national summit years ago where state and national leaders were asked the question of whether we need to standardize our credential under a single title of Registered Veterinary Nurse. I have been working with veterinary leaders across the nation since, to bring our goal to fruition.

I support HB 501 because the bill being passed in Ohio will turn the state into the spearhead to a national effort in setting the standards for registered veterinary nurses for the rest of the nation to follow. The educational standards set for individuals to qualify and to maintain credentials in Ohio will serve as examples for other states to mirror and to pursue. Once the standards are nationally unified under the title of registered veterinary nurse, license portability will be improved through the ability to form agreements between states for registered veterinary nurses to utilize their education and degree in any state while still allowing each state to regulate its own credentialing. License portability and reciprocity is important in today’s world of increased mobility of households and will also support military families being stationed outside of their home state for duty. With the current national trend of insufficient qualified individuals with necessary education to fill the role, an accurate and recognizable national title will drive better public protection nation-wide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 501. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Yagi", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM)
Veterinary Nurse Initiative Co-Chair