

HB 501 – Proponent Testimony

March 20, 2018

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

INTRODUCTION

My name is Janet Buck and I am from Swanton, Ohio. I am asking for your support of HB 501, which changes the title of “registered veterinary technician” to “registered veterinary nurse” in the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I graduated in 1974 from Columbus Technical Institute which is Columbus State Community College today. I graduated on Friday and started working at Graber Animal Hospital in Toledo, Ohio on Monday. I was the first AHT (Animal Health Technician) in the Toledo area and worked for them for 22 ½ years.

Education has always been a passion of mine whether for self-improvement or training a new employee. In 1996, I began teaching and eventually became Program Director at Stautzenberger College in their Veterinary Technology program.

In 2002, I accepted a teaching position at Penta Career Center in the Small Animal Care program which prepared high school students for entry level jobs in the animal industry. So at the age of 48, I found myself back in college getting my teaching credentials and licensed.

I retired in June of 2014 and have been able to do relief work at local veterinary hospitals.

I have been involved with the state association of veterinary technicians since its formation back in 1976. I have served in many offices through the years and remember when our credentials went from AHT (Animal Health Technician) to RAT (Registered Animal Technician) to RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician).

I have served on the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board as the first appointed Veterinary Technician position.

I have served on the AVMA’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

I have served on the Veterinary Technician Testing Committee of the AAVSB.

I am currently the Executive Secretary for the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians.

RATIONALE

I support HB 501 because it is only through legislation and education that any profession can grow and prosper. Changing the credential to registered veterinary nurse is a step forward in my opinion to more accurately reflect the true nature of our services in the veterinary practice. It allows the public to better understand our role, training, and scope of abilities.

CONCLUSION

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.