



House Bill 177
Testimony of Dr. Brad Raetzke
November 19, 2019

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Manning, Acting Ranking Member West and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express continued opposition to House Bill 177, which would grant independent practice to nurse practitioners (APRNs).

The American College of Emergency Physicians, Ohio Chapter (Ohio ACEP) represents nearly 1600 emergency medicine physicians in this state. As I am sure you are well aware, the emergency department is a fast-paced and complicated practice environment. Emergency physicians see and treat conditions that cross the entire spectrum of medicine. We see every patient that walks through our door regardless of presenting symptoms, insurance coverage, medical history, etc.

Our association values the contributions of the allied healthcare professionals in the emergency department. We could not do our job without APRNs, physician assistants, RNs, etc. However, our members believe **strongly** that a physician should remain the head of the healthcare team. Our education, training and experience cannot be replaced in the healthcare field. Particularly when seeking emergency care, Ohioans have an expectation that a physician with the requisite experience is leading their healthcare team.

You have heard today from physician leaders why the proposed substitute version of HB 177 does not change our position of opposition to the bill. 2000 hours of undefined clinical experience, which could be in collaboration with another APRN, is not a meaningful replacement for physician expertise. At the point of certification, an APRN has at most 1500 hours of clinical training. Adding another 2000 before independent practice still puts them nowhere near the 15,000 hours of clinical training a family physician has to have to practice. There is also no training residency requirement for APRNs - most of their training can be done online, which does not provide the real characteristics of a practice environment. There are also no additional specialty training requirements for an APRN.

This bill will not increase patient access to quality care, and will not improve care for Ohioans. All of your constituents deserve high quality healthcare. Any perceived access shortages should not be "solved" by lowering quality and standards.

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We believe strongly that the current team-based healthcare model is in the best interest of this state. Patients deserve experienced and trained medical care, especially in the emergency department where they are at their most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration of this perspective.

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