

**Ohio Senate**  
**Senate Health and Human Services Committee**  
**November 28, 2016**  
**Sub. H.B. 216**

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Thank you Chairwoman Jones, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on Sub. H.B. 216.

My name is Dr. Candy Rinehart and I am the president of the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses. I am a practicing family nurse practitioner who directs a nurse practitioner led and managed health clinic. As an advocate for my profession, I feel passionately that Ohio citizens need this legislation to improve health care access, and decrease health care costs.

I would like to make the Senate Health and Human Services Committee aware of the benefits of HB 216, which awaits your approval.

HB 216 – represents almost 2 years of meetings, negotiations and hard work to modernize the APRN practice act. This bill contains some important changes to Ohio law which provide Ohio citizens with improved access to health care services. I would like to take a few minutes to discuss the bill before you today.

**The bill:**

- 1. Institutes a 120 day buffer period for an emergent loss of a collaborating physician.**  
Currently, if the collaborating physician is unable to continue in that role, APRNs have to cease practicing immediately and close their practice. Under the new provision, the APRN in a standard care arrangement (SCA) will notify the Board of Nursing with a letter that the SCA is ending. The 120 day period starts upon receipt of that letter. The existing criteria of the prior SCA remains in effect until another contract is signed with a new collaborating physician. This change provides continued access to health care services for patients seen by an APRN and provides for the safe delivery of patient care.
- 2. Licenses the APRN to practice and prescribe with one license without requiring a certification for prescribing, as recommended by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.**  
Currently, APRNs must be licensed as RNs and carry certificates to be identified as APRNs including another certificate as prescribing APRNs. This change is consistent with physician licensure and physician assistant licensure statutes.
- 3. Allows non- psychiatrists to collaborate with Psychiatric Mental Health APRNs.**  
This change addresses the severe psychiatrist shortage in Ohio which has almost eliminated the pool of available psychiatric physician collaborators. It will allow non-psychiatrists to serve as collaborating physicians for psychiatric APRNs, expanding access for Ohio citizens to expert mental health services, including mental health services to the elderly in all sites.
- 4. It increases the prescribing parameter ratio of APRNs to physician collaborator from 3:1 to 5:1.**

This increases the number of APRN's that can collaborate with the same collaborating physician in a prescribing role, which increases access to health care for Ohio citizens.

**5. This bill also makes the following improvements:**

- It increases the continuing educational requirements for Ohio licensure of an APRN, including a focus on pharmacology.
- It extends the validity of the advanced pharmacology course from three to five years
- It allows for APRNs to have – patient privilege to include testimonial privilege which protects the APRN provider and the patient. This change is consistent with the testimonial privilege offered to physicians, to the clergy and to attorneys.

Please help us bring Ohio into the present. We need these highly educated and nationally certified advanced practice registered nurses to practice in Ohio and to provide health care access to Ohio's citizens.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Candy Rinehart DNP, FAANP