



February 28, 2018

The Honorable Steven Huffman  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 464- Stroke Care

Dear Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, & Members of the House Health Committee:

As the president of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA), I am writing on behalf of our association in support of House Bill 464 (HB 464), a bill that aims to improve current methods of time-response and quality of care received by patients during a stroke emergency.

Stroke is the fifth-leading cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in the United States. In 2013 stroke was the primary cause of about one in every twenty deaths in Ohio, with roughly 5,690 people dying from strokes that same year. The cost to our state is estimated to be at \$2.5 billion each year, and predicted to increase by \$4 billion each year by 2020. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is a part of a national effort to ensure needed standards are in place that recognize a hospital's "stroke-ready" capability along with the effective coordination of emergency responders to transport stroke patients to the most appropriate facility in the shortest amount of time. ONA supports the stroke care efforts of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

As an association of nearly 10,000 nurses, ONA strives to improve the health and wellbeing of all Ohio's citizens. We believe that HB 464 seeks to improve stroke care in Ohio by providing protocol to meet the needs of each patient in the shortest amount of time, no matter where they are in the state. We respectfully request support for HB 464 from members of Ohio's House Health Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJB", written over a white rectangular background.

Brian J. Burger MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN  
President, Ohio Nurses Association

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