



April 25, 2019

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To Whom It May Concern,

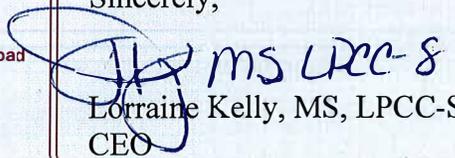
I have been asked to write this letter in support of HB 177 by Sara Pease an OAAPN member. Ms. Pease is a Family Nurse Practitioner whom I have known for the past five years both personally and professionally. She requested that I write this letter as she is familiar with circumstances in my agency that would be positively impacted by the passage of this bill.

In November of 2017, a doctor abruptly left PsyCare with no notice. This doctor was licensed in family practice as well as child/adolescent and adult psychiatry. He was the collaborator for 5 nurse practitioners, 3 in our family care clinic and 2 in our mental health clinics. The abrupt departure of this physician caused a severe financial strain on our family care clinic. We had to first find a new collaborator, then pay the collaborator and also pay malpractice for the collaborator. Our clinic was located in a rural small town and serviced a low income, Medicaid population. It was not designed to make money, but was part of our plan to integrate physical and mental health care. The loss of the collaborating physician was a large part of the financial strain that led to the closing of our family care clinic in May of this year.

Currently, we employ one psychiatrist who collaborates with 4 nurse practitioners. I am not sure if we would be able to replace this doctor were he to decide to retire. That being said, I don't know how we would replace him as the collaborator for 4 psychiatric nurse practitioners. I am concerned about the impact on patient care as we are a large agency with 7 offices over 3 counties. I would anticipate that we would have to either close offices or reduce staff if this were to occur.

We fully support HB177 and the removal of the Standard Care Arrangement for all Ohio Nurse Practitioners. I hope this information has been helpful to you. I would be happy to discuss this issue in more detail.

Sincerely,


Lorraine Kelly, MS, LPCC-S
CEO
PsyCare, Inc.