

Testimony on House Bill 177
Joe Russell—Executive Director
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice
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OHIO COUNCIL
FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Health committee, my name is Joe Russell and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 177—Standard Care Arrangements.

The Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH) is a non-profit trade association that represents over 600 member agencies across the State of Ohio. Our agencies provide care to Ohio's most vulnerable patients where it matters most—at home. We also work closely with Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to ensure that people are getting the most appropriate care they need.

We believe that HB177 would assist in removing the barriers from accessing care from APRNs, which in turn would assist in providing flexibility to patients receiving care across the state. As Director Barbra Sykes stated in her proponent testimony, there is a shortage of primary health professionals in the State of Ohio. We believe that removing this restriction of choice for patients could help alleviate that problem. APRN's provide a robust range of care that could assist with Ohio's most vulnerable patients, especially those in rural areas that are already experiencing the shortage of professionals.

We support HB177 which would remove the requirement of APRN's having to sign a contract with a physician in order to practice in Ohio.

On behalf of our members, we ask the committee to support HB177. Thank you for your attention and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.