

**Case Management Society of America
Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 341
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
November 17, 2020**

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, my name is Dr. Joan Sevy Majers and I am presenting testimony on behalf of the Case Management Society of America – Ohio (CMSA-Ohio) in support of Senate Bill 341. I am currently Treasurer of the Southern Ohio Valley Chapter of Ohio and have been a certified case manager for 10 years. I am submitting this testimony at the request of the Presidents of both my own and the Cleveland chapters.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide support for Senate Bill 341 which would enter Ohio into the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

CMSA represents over 30,000 members and participants in a number of different practice settings and care delivery models. Case Managers play a critical part in providing information, recommendations, and options to patients and the entire care delivery team.

CMSA Partners seek to advance the entire profession of case management and are a critical component of CMSA's mission to provide resources to case managers and increase their visibility in the health care community.

CMSA Chapter Partners hold an official membership within CMSA and receive a variety of benefits including discounts for other CMSA products and visibility to the CMSA community.

Our Boards see the current issue to be that current health care practices such as electronic, telehealth services and case management with an increasingly mobile US population, and evolving healthcare system frequently require nurse case managers to provide care and services to patients living in states other than their primary state of residence. As you are aware, a nurse's primary state of residence regulates the nurse's primary nursing license.

Lawful practice requires that a nurse be licensed or have the privilege to practice in the state where the patient is located at the time care is directed or service is provided. This pertains to in-person or telehealth practice. Nurse case managers are governed by laws regulating nursing practice where care is being provided. In the instance of nurse case managers working with patients in several states, licensure is necessary in each state to assure protection of the public. Not all healthcare organizations that employ nurses to work across state lines acknowledge this issue. Employers cannot assure accountability for nursing practice; individual licensure does. Many organizations do not financially support obtaining multiple state nursing licenses, nor do they provide support for the required education for re-licensure that varies from each state. Malpractice coverage is not available in states in which nurses do not hold an active, valid nursing license, leaving nurses personally liable for legal action or judgments.

Kathy Barrows, Case Management Society of America- Southern Ohio Valley Board Member, currently holds 31 nursing licenses due to her role as a complex case management RN residing in Ohio. In December of this year alone she will be required to renew 6 licenses. In addition to the administrative burden, there is also the cost aspect related to licensure and re-licensure requirements as well as individual state course requirements.

Therefore CMSA-Ohio draws our Ohio legislators attention to the need for the compact licensure in the state of Ohio and aggressively urges them to co-sponsor and support immediate adoption of the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (enhanced version adopted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 5/2015)

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 341. I appreciate the committee's time and consideration.