



MOUNT CARMEL

Proponent Testimony

Senate Bill 341

Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

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Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on S.B. 341, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the national “Nurse Licensure Compact”.

Due to the increased strain on hospitals from the current surge of COV-ID-19, I am unable to join you in person as I am focusing on our efforts to respond to the pandemic. I apologize for my absence but do urge this committee to pass S.B. 341.

I am the chief nursing officer for Mount Carmel Health System. As one of the largest integrated health systems in the community, Mount Carmel serves more than a million patients in Central Ohio each year. Our health system provides people-centered care at four hospitals – Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel Grove City, Mount Carmel St. Ann’s and Mount Carmel New Albany – an inpatient rehabilitation hospital, free-standing emergency centers, outpatient facilities, surgery centers, urgent care centers, primary care and specialty care physician offices, community outreach sites and homes across the region. Mount Carmel Health System serves as the Ohio Region of Trinity Health, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation, serving diverse communities that include more than 30 million people across 22 states.

As a regional provider that is part of a national health system, Mount Carmel strongly supports the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact which allows registered nurses and licensed practical/vocational nurses to have one multistate license in the primary state of residence and practice in other compact states, while subject to each state’s practice laws and discipline. As Senator Roegner said in her sponsor testimony, S.B. 341 “expands economic opportunity for Ohio’s nurses as well as enables nurses from other states to serve in Ohio” while also providing a safe, effective and efficient resource to help alleviate staffing stress during times of emergency, such as the current pandemic.

On a personal note, I have experienced the inefficiencies in the current system. I recently returned to Ohio, where I have practiced as a registered nurse for most of my professional career, after leaving a position in South Carolina. When I moved to South Carolina, the ability to obtain my RN license was rapid; South Carolina is a Nurse Licensure Compact. However, when I made the decision to return to Ohio, re-activating my RN license was arduous. After almost four weeks, I was at risk of not being able to start my position. I cannot stress enough the importance of expediting licensure for RNs and LPNs across State lines.

Thank you for this opportunity to express Mount Carmel’s support for passage of S.B. 341. Please reach out to me or to Jason Koma, Regional Director of Gov. Affairs at 614-546-3410 or jkoma@mchs.com if you have any questions.

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Chief Nursing Officer

Ohio Region of Trinity Health, Mount Carmel Health System