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Memorandum to Chairman Burke and the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee

From: Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council
Date: December 1, 2020
Subj: Written testimony in support for H.B. 365

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council) I am pleased to share with the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee our support for H.B. 365. And I want to thank Representative Gayle Manning and her staff for their efforts to advance this bill through the legislative process.

As this committee knows, Ohio and many other states are experiencing a healthcare workforce shortage – this challenge is growing into a crisis with respect to Ohio’s behavioral healthcare workforce. H.B. 365 would begin to address this challenge by maintaining the chemical dependency counselor II license and its scope of practice while establishing another option for individuals seeking to advance their careers within Ohio’s addiction treatment field.

H.B. 365 is sound policy and reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach. Indeed, H.B. 365 appears to strike an appropriate balance between the state’s interest in supporting the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board’s duties while also encouraging professional development and expanded addiction treatment capacity.

Accordingly, The Ohio Council urges this committee to support this legislation and report out H.B. 365 for a vote in the Senate during this lame duck period. Thank you for the opportunity to submit for the record our statement in support of H.B. 365.