



Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

125 Enterprise Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214

Toll-Free: (877) 769-6622 • Phone: (412) 859-6104 • Fax: (412) 859-6168

oncc@oncc.org • www.oncc.org

December 16, 2020

Senator Rob McColley

McColley@ohiosenate.gov

Re: Opposition to H.B. 263

Dear Senator McColley:

I am writing on behalf of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC), which has 41,241 certificants internationally, including 2,035 in the State of Ohio. We are members of the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC), a national association representing the private professional certification community consisting of 100+ organizational members that collectively represent hundreds of thousands of certified individuals.

We are sharing the attached letter outlining our organization's and the PCC's **opposition to H.B. 263** as currently constituted and respectfully encouraging you to **refrain from enacting the bill into law**. As the letter reflects, the PCC had initially proposed amending the bill to correct the serious negative effects it would have on the public and on certification organizations that rely on licensure decisions. As the bill passed the Senate without those amendments, however, we urge you not to enact the bill in its current form, and instead to address the issue through improved legislation next session.

As outlined in our attached letter, we wholeheartedly support H.B. 263's goal of broadening access to licensure for ex-offenders so they may earn a living in their chosen profession. However, we also believe that licensing boards should have the ability to consider relevant underlying facts related to an applicant's past conduct so the board may make individual determinations about that applicant's fitness to practice the occupation with the state's endorsement. The current language of **H.B. 263 exposes the public to substantial risks** by forcing licensing authorities to turn a blind eye to an applicant's history simply due to the passage of time, among other consequences.

Our organization and the PCC believe that any bill establishing standards for consideration of criminal conviction history for purposes of licensure should endorse the role of licensing authorities in protecting public health and welfare, not just public safety, and should permit such authorities to consider any information that is relevant to a licensure decision. We believe that [Pennsylvania SB 637](#), enacted into law earlier this year, is an ideal model for criminal conviction history legislation because it strikes a balance

between the very worthwhile goal of reducing barriers to entry for ex-offenders while ensuring that licensing boards make individualized assessments to determine whether an applicant poses an unacceptable risk to those with whom the applicant would interact while practicing an occupation/profession. We would welcome the opportunity to work constructively with you and other stakeholders on revised legislation next session that reflects this balance.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me in our organization, or email info@profcertcoalition.org to discuss this issue with a member of the PCC team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Ellis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tony Ellis, MEd, CAE
Executive Director, ONCC