

March 24, 2021

House Commerce & Labor Committee
Chairman Dick Stein
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 163- Nurse Overtime

Dear Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide support for House Bill 163, a bill aimed to prohibit the use of nurse mandatory overtime as a condition of employment. My name is Peggy Ann Berry and I am a registered nurse.

I do not have a personal story of my own to tell you. But I am here to lend my voice to those nurses afraid not to work mandatory overtime for fear of job loss and fears of being reported to the Board of Nursing for "patient abandonment." When a nurse works overtime, please remember that most are working twelve hours shifts to begin with. As the hours continue, the nurse's ability to render safe care to patients declines and mistakes can happen. The level of alertness decreases and makes the drive home dangerous for the nurse and others sharing the road with her/him. OSHA states that "Working shifts longer than 8 hours will generally result in reduced productivity and alertness" (https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/faq_longhours.html). I believe employers should never penalize an a worker who declines working overtime and it should never be mandatory. Healthcare facilities should find more appropriate ways of staffing that does not discourage the health and wellbeing of its nurses.

I fully support HB 163 and ask that this committee vote yes, in support of Ohio nurses and patients. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peggy Ann Berry, PhD, MSN, RN, COHN-S, CLE, PLNC, FAAOHN

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