



December 1st, 2022

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to Senate Bill 278, which would establish the first full week of February as Ohio Burn Awareness Week.

Burns are some of the most devastating of medical emergencies. Burn Survivors may suffer extreme pain as well as difficult and demanding rehabilitation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, burns are the 7th leading cause of accidental injury or death in Ohio. Burns are the 6th leading cause of accidental injury or death for Ohioans age 65 and older. The admission causes for fires throughout the United States are as follows: 43% fire/flare, 34% scald, 9% contact, 4% electrical, 3% chemical and 7% other. From 2005-2014, there was a 96.8% survival rate for burn patients. The patients who survive burns need access to services through a lengthy healing process.

Senate Bill 278 would establish the first full week of February as Ohio Burn Awareness Week. This week would align with the American Burn Association's recognition of Burn Awareness Week. By codifying Senate Bill 278, Ohio would honor those who have lost their lives or suffered severe burn injuries, raise awareness of accidental burn injuries and fatalities, and also educate the public on effective preventative measures to avoid accidental burn injuries or fatalities.

On behalf of UC Health, the Cincinnati Fire Department, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Mercy Health, the University of Toledo Medical Center, and Akron Children's Hospital, we strongly support Senate Bill 278. We are grateful for Senator Peterson's leadership on this important issue, and respectfully request the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee favorably report this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad McGarvie'.

Chad McGarvie, MSN, RN
Burn Program Manager, UC Health – University of Cincinnati Medical Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Caldwell'.

Kenneth Caldwell
Cincinnati Fire District Chief
Prevention and Risk Reduction

LeeAnn Wurster

Lee Ann Wurster MS, RN, TCRN, CPNP

Trauma and Burn Program Manager. Nationwide Children's Hospital