



Rep. Tom Young
37nd Ohio House District

Rep. Marilyn John
76th Ohio House District

Chair Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and members of the Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 102. The APRT is a new professional who is a non-physician advanced practice provider with at least a master’s degree and completion of a curriculum equivalent to other advanced practice providers in Ohio such as Advanced Practice Nurses or Physician Assistants. This new professional is simply “clinical ladder” advancement for respiratory care professionals who have been licensed in Ohio since 1990.

Our legislation will seek to improve access to Cardio-pulmonary Care in Ohio. APRT’s offer a niche expertise that would support pulmonary, critical care and sleep physicians in adult and pediatric

settings. These APRT's would only practice under the supervision, control and direction of a physician who specializes in cardiopulmonary disease management and would not be able to prescribe home-going controlled substances.

Currently there is a gap between the availability of providers and the needs of citizens with cardiopulmonary disease in all clinical settings in the country. One aspect of this gap is a shortage of cardio-pulmonary specialists in these clinical settings. These specialists are the most-in demand and this note is particularly concerning as 73% of pulmonologists are 55 or older, indicating a rapid increase in this need in the coming years. Ohio State University has recently created a Masters of Respiratory Therapy graduate program which received "Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist" accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Respiratory Care in 2019.

This legislation was crafted with the assistance from the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care using American Association for Respiratory Care's scope of practice and qualifications as well as the

CoARC's APRT curriculum standards and the Ohio Respiratory Care Law ORC 4761 along with portions of the Physician Assistant Law. In this legislation we insert the "APRT" and/or ORC "4761" into all existing laws defining health care providers, prescribers, prescribing requirements, and liabilities. One of the most important features of this bill is that it addresses current and future healthcare demands of Ohioans as they age. By taking action now and addressing issues arising in cardio-pulmonary care we can improve the health of Ohioans today and set our state up for success in the future. Thank you for this opportunity, we would be happy to answer any questions.