

**HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act**  
**Proponent Testimony by Bronte Stafford-Crandall**

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee.

My name is Bronte Stafford-Crandall, and I am a high school student from the Cleveland area. I am writing this letter because I have a deep interest in the field of nursing, and it breaks my heart to see that many hospitals in my community are struggling with severe nursing shortages. As I think about pursuing a career in this field, it is disheartening to consider the challenges posed by an overburdened system. It saddens me further to know that many patients in these hospitals rely on nurses for their care, yet there simply aren't enough nurses available to meet their needs.

I am the daughter of a single mother raising three children, and we have faced poverty and homelessness throughout my upbringing. This gives me a unique understanding of how the lack of nurse staffing impacts families like mine. Families living in poverty cannot afford to take extra time away from work or other responsibilities to "pitch in" during medical crises. For single mothers like mine, it's incredibly difficult to balance being in two places at once—maintaining a household while also advocating for loved ones in the hospital. Families like ours rely on competent, well-staffed nursing teams to care for patients.

In my personal experience, my mother has lived with a breathing disability called Subglottic Stenosis for most of my childhood. This condition severely limits her ability to breathe, and during flare-ups, she is unable to get any air into her lungs, often requiring emergency medical care. With the current nurse staffing crisis in Ohio hospitals, I fear that my mother may not receive the help she needs during these critical moments. This is a terrifying reality. I need to trust that my mother will receive proper care in a life-or-death situation, but the overwhelming understaffing in our hospitals makes it hard to feel confident in that.

I have faith in our system of government, and I want to believe that lawmakers will listen to the voices of their constituents. I hope they will take action to address this issue by implementing policies that prioritize the well-being of patients and the nurses who tirelessly serve them. By listening to those affected, lawmakers have the power to make meaningful changes that will benefit us all.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. My voice may be small, but I believe that when we come together, we can create a better, more equitable society.

Sincerely,  
Bronte Stafford-Crandall