

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Vannesa Plummer-Carrizoza, STNA

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

My name is Vannesa Plummer-Carrizoza, and I am a State-Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) currently in nursing school. I am writing to share my strong support for House Bill 285, the Nurse Workforce and Safe Patient Care Act, which aims to restore safe staffing standards and address the nursing shortage in Ohio.

As someone preparing to join the nursing profession, I am both inspired by the opportunity to care for others and deeply concerned about the future of healthcare. I have already seen, as an STNA, how inadequate staffing levels negatively impact patients and caregivers alike. Patients are left waiting for essential care, and healthcare workers are pushed to their physical and emotional limits.

House Bill 285 offers meaningful solutions to these challenges by:

- Setting minimum nurse-to-patient staffing ratios to improve safety and care quality.
- Introducing a \$20 million loan-to-grant program to incentivize nurses, like myself, to stay and work in Ohio.
- Empowering hospital staffing committees to tailor solutions to their unique needs.
- Protecting workers who speak out about unsafe staffing practices.

As I prepare to transition from being an STNA to becoming a licensed nurse, I fear what the future may hold if these issues are not addressed. Without support and enforceable staffing standards, new nurses may face overwhelming workloads that lead to burnout and discourage retention in the profession. HB285 provides a pathway to ensuring a safer and more sustainable career for me and countless others.

I urge you to support this legislation to invest in the future of nursing and protect the well-being of patients and healthcare workers. Thank you for considering this critical issue. Please feel free to contact me at the above email if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Vannesa Plummer-Carrizoza
State-Tested Nursing Assistant and Nursing Student