

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Kelly Simoncic RN, BSN

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the need for safe staffing ratios in Ohio's healthcare system. As a healthcare professional, citizen, patient, concerned individual, I believe that ensuring safe staffing levels is critical to delivering high-quality patient care, protecting the health and well-being of both patients and healthcare workers, and fostering a sustainable and efficient healthcare environment across our state.

Ohio's hospitals and healthcare facilities are facing significant challenges in delivering optimal care due to understaffing. Research consistently demonstrates that appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios directly correlate with improved patient outcomes, reduced rates of preventable complications, and decreased burnout among healthcare staff. Without adequate staffing, healthcare workers are stretched too thin, leading to exhaustion, mistakes, and ultimately, compromised care.

By setting safe staffing ratios, Ohio would not only protect patients but also help retain qualified healthcare professionals. When nurses and other frontline workers are given the time and support to care for their patients properly, they are less likely to experience burnout or leave the profession. This is vital in addressing the ongoing shortage of healthcare workers and ensuring that Ohio remains a place where quality care is accessible to all.

I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of safe staffing ratios in Ohio's healthcare system, which would lead to better patient care, reduced healthcare costs, and a more stable workforce. I am confident that, with appropriate legislation, we can create an environment that ensures the health and safety of both patients and providers alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing your support for safe staffing ratios in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Kelly Simoncic RN, BSN