

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Mike Zeber

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

My mother was a nurse for several decades. She worked a variety of areas including the early days of HIV/AIDS. She worked hospice, school nursing, insurance blood work, and more. She was assaulted by patients and had injuries from work due to a lack of staff. She would have rather gotten hurt than left a patient to get sores. She probably would still be doing nursing work to this day in some capacity if the lack of staffing in nursing hadn't broken her body and mind.

My grandfather got gangrene in a hospital right before he died in 2007. He was left for too long because the hospital he worked for was severely understaffed.

I have many friends who are nurses and the horror stories they tell me and the physical exhaustion and stress they suffer to try to ensure that their patients are taken care of without getting the staff support they need are intense.

The whole care team is critical, but the trained and skilled nursing staff are key to patient care and recovery. They cannot be replaced by cheaper less trained staff.

Please do not think about this just in dollars and cents, this is about having enough sense to make sure that when you or a loved one are in need of medical care, it will be there.

Thank you,

Mike Zeber
Parma, Ohio