

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act

Proponent Testimony by Daye Smith, sister of the late Tristin Kate Smith

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

My name is Daye Smith, and I am writing in support of House Bill 285. I am the sister of Tristin Kate Smith who was an ER nurse who took her life in August 2023. I have been working in healthcare for over 10 years. I am a licensed practical nurse, a medical laboratory technician, and an NCO in the United States Army Reserves. As a nurse I am told I am the patient's advocate and to fight to give them the quality of care they deserve. As a medical laboratory technician, I am responsible for giving accurate results in a timely manner so patients can be treated effectively and efficiently. As an NCO in the Army, it is my duty to take care of soldiers and put their needs first. As a leader of Ohio's citizens, it is your responsibility to take care of the citizens you represent and ensure their best interests are at the forefront.

House Bill 285 is in the best interest of all Ohioans. This bill will create an atmosphere in healthcare that will not only give your loved ones the care they deserve but ensure the people who are taking care of them are at their best to do so. This bill promotes safe staffing that will reduce preventable errors in healthcare. Ohioans deserve to be treated by someone who is at their best and not experiencing unnecessary burnout. By saying yes to House Bill 285, you are saying yes to saving lives and yes to moving healthcare forward in a manner that puts the patient first. As a healthcare worker all we want is to take care of your loved ones in a safe environment.