

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

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

My name is Autumn Bussing and I am a registered nurse in Ohio. I am writing this email to show my support of HB 285. As a nurse who finished nursing school and started her career during a pandemic, I did not get to experience nursing as anything but high risk and high stakes. I became a travel nurse a little over a year ago and I've worked at three different hospitals with three different systems in OH, wherein I learned to be adaptable and "hit the ground running." From my experience patient ratios can make or break your day, I've worked on units ranging from ICU to Acute Rehab with ratios from 1:1 to 1:6. Supporting the Nurse Workforce and Safe Patient Care Act (HB 285) will improve patient care by decreasing mortality/morbidity, lack of education/knowledge deficit, and therefore improving and reducing readmission thus decreasing cost placed on hospitals. Let me break it down- mandating safe patient ratios will decrease mortality and morbidity by allowing nurses to focus less on tasks and more on patient care, thereby catching medication errors, signs/symptoms of new infections, and any other acute changes. Having a patient load of six patients on a progressive floor is bewildering, but I've lived it and many other nurses have been there or in worse situations. To continue, safe patient ratios will also bridge the gap of knowledge and education deficits among patients simply because nurses will have more time to educate patients on disease processes, new medication and other treatment modalities. Furthermore, both of the last two points will reduce readmission rates, thus saving hospitals money. In conclusion, passing HB 285 will not only help nurses but greatly improve patient care and outcomes. Everyone has the possibility of being a patient in the hospital, so I ask, would you prefer a nurse managing a high patient load, potentially limiting their ability to provide personalized care, or a nurse who has the capacity to be more engaged and attentive to your needs?

Nurses are leaving bedside at increasing rates, let's also make their jobs a place they feel supported.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Autumn Bussing, BSN, RN