

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act Proponent Testimony by Bradley Minerdt EMT

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

My name is Bradley Minerdt, and I am an Advanced EMT serving rural Ohio communities. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 285, which seeks to establish safe patient-to-nurse ratios in Ohio's healthcare facilities.

As an Advanced EMT, I am on the front lines of emergency care, often responding to critical calls in rural townships. One of the greatest challenges we face is extended hospital turnover times, which occur when emergency departments are unable to process incoming patients quickly due to staff shortages and unsafe nurse-to-patient ratios. This delay directly impacts EMS response capabilities, as ambulances and EMS personnel are tied up at hospitals instead of being available for the next emergency call.

In rural areas, where EMS coverage is already limited, these delays can mean the difference between life and death. For example, when a hospital has insufficient nursing staff to manage a surge of patients, we are left waiting with critical patients in our care. This situation not only compromises the treatment of the current patient but also causes delays for subsequent calls, leaving our communities vulnerable and underserved.

Safe patient-to-nurse ratios are not just a matter of hospital efficiency—they are critical to the entire continuum of care. For rural EMS providers, who often transport patients over long distances, every minute spent waiting in an overcrowded emergency department creates a ripple effect. Lives are at stake, particularly in situations involving strokes, heart attacks, or severe trauma, where prompt intervention is crucial.

House Bill 285 represents a necessary step forward in addressing this crisis. By mandating safe staffing levels, the legislation would:

- Reduce emergency department wait times, enabling faster EMS turnover and improved response times.
- Ensure that patients receive quality care upon arrival at the hospital, easing the burden on EMS personnel who often serve as the sole providers of care during extended waits.
- Improve health outcomes for rural Ohioans, who already face significant barriers to timely medical care.

Our communities depend on us to respond quickly and effectively in emergencies. However, our ability to do so is severely hindered when hospitals lack the resources to manage incoming patients. HB 285 will not only improve hospital operations but will also strengthen the entire healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas.

In closing, I urge you to support this critical legislation for the health and safety of Ohioans. Ensuring safe patient-to-nurse ratios will save lives, reduce burnout among healthcare providers, and help rural EMS agencies deliver the rapid, high-quality care our communities deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Bradley Miner
Advanced EMT

Bradley Miner, NRAEMT