

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Mary Roberts, RN

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this critical issue. My name is Christie Andryc, and I have been a critical care nurse in Ohio for nearly seven years. While I cannot attend the hearing in person due to my work schedule, I feel compelled to share my concerns about the impact of short staffing on both nurses and patients.

Nurses are leaving the profession in waves because of unsafe staffing ratios. This growing crisis compromises the well-being of patients and nurses alike, creating a cycle of burnout and reduced care quality. It is clear that without the implementation of safe staffing standards, this problem will only worsen.

Safe staffing ratios are essential to retaining nurses at the bedside and ensuring that patients receive the high-quality care they deserve. Currently, the care we can provide is often minimal, not because of a lack of dedication or skill, but because there simply aren't enough nurses to meet patient needs. Patients deserve better, and we, as nurses, want to give them the best care possible.

Unsafe staffing ratios leave nurses unable to spend the necessary time with each patient, undermining both the quality of care and the well-being of those we serve. Setting enforceable safe staffing ratios would be a significant step toward addressing this crisis and supporting nurses in continuing to provide the compassionate, skilled care that our patients rely on.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Christie Andryc, RN

Critical Care Nurse