

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Julia Cinquepalmi

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

As a dedicated nurse working in Ohio at Cleveland Clinic, I am writing to advocate for House Bill 285 the implementation of set patient ratios within all Ohio healthcare facilities. My experience on the front lines of patient care has shown me the profound impact that appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios can have on both patient outcomes and the well-being of nursing staff. In my daily practice, I have seen how manageable patient loads allow me to provide the attentive, high-quality care that every patient deserves. When the nurse-to-patient ratio is too high, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet the diverse needs of each individual. This can lead to delays in care, increased risk of errors, and a decline in the overall patient experience. Conversely, with set patient ratios, I can ensure that each patient receives the necessary time and attention, leading to better health outcomes and higher patient satisfaction.

Furthermore, the implementation of set patient ratios is crucial for the sustainability of the nursing profession. High patient loads contribute to significant stress and burnout among nurses, which not only affects our mental and physical health but also exacerbates the ongoing nursing shortage. By establishing reasonable ratios, we can create a more supportive and sustainable work environment that helps retain experienced nurses and attracts new professionals to the field.

The evidence supporting the benefits of set nurse-to-patient ratios is compelling. Studies have shown that appropriate ratios lead to lower mortality rates, fewer medical errors, and reduced incidences of hospital-acquired infections. These improvements not only enhance patient safety but also contribute to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of our healthcare system.

I urge the Ohio Board of Nursing to take action on this critical issue. Implementing set patient ratios will not only protect the health and well-being of patients but also ensure that nurses can continue to provide the highest standard of care. Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Cinquepalmi