



Representative Thomas F. Patton
Sponsor Testimony, H.B. 627
House Homeland Security Committee
December 4, 2024

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 627, which would create the “Ohio Society for Respiratory Care” license plate, to be made available to the public for purchase.

During the COVID pandemic, respiratory therapists were on the front line daily, managing thousands of patients who required ventilator care. Post-COVID, there is now a national and statewide shortage of respiratory therapists. It is more important than ever to bring recognition to allied health fields, especially respiratory therapy, as in-demand livable wage careers. These license plates will help increase Respiratory Care visibility to the public.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring the third week in October to be nationally recognized as Respiratory Care Week. This week brings awareness to respiratory care workers and continues to be recognized annually by executives across the country, including Governor DeWine. The OSRC license plate will build on this awareness campaign across our state.

The funds generated by Ohio’s logo license plate program will support the OSRC’s Scholarship Programs to help students graduate from the 21 accredited Ohio Respiratory Care schools. The OSRC’s Scholarship funds are currently awarded annually to three full-time students enrolled in nationally accredited Respiratory Care programs in Ohio. This is one more way we can help fill our statewide shortage of respiratory care workers.

Thank you once more for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation. I now welcome any questions from the committee.