



OSRC Proponent Testimony on HB 627 before the House Homeland Security Committee
December 4, 2024

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and esteemed members of the House Homeland Security Committee. My name is David Corey and I'm the Executive Director of the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care (OSRC), a 1,900-member, non-profit, professional association that is a chartered affiliate of the national American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). Since it was founded in 1977, OSRC's mission has been to promote the education and licensure of respiratory care professionals, to improve the safety and quality of respiratory care delivery in Ohio, and to reduce the impact of respiratory disease through diagnosis, treatment and implementation of public respiratory health initiatives. OSRC's efforts impact the 9,000+ Respiratory Care Professionals (RCPs) working in Ohio, licensed under the State Medical Board of Ohio.

HB 627 creates a special reserved "Ohio Society for Respiratory Care" license plate which can be purchased by the public: those within the profession of respiratory care, those who want to recognize the work of respiratory therapists, and those who value the profession for helping them live better lives despite their respiratory disease.

During the COVID pandemic, respiratory therapists were on the front lines daily, managing the 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.

The funds generated by Ohio's logo license plate program will help support OSRC's Scholarship Program to assist even more students to enroll in and graduate from the 21 accredited Ohio Respiratory Care schools. OSRC's Scholarship funds are currently limited to three student scholarships awarded annually to full-time students enrolled in nationally accredited Respiratory Care Programs in Ohio.

Your support of HB 627 will ensure Ohio's respiratory care students are offered as many opportunities as possible to complete their education and enter the RCP workforce in Ohio, to serve the growing need of those with respiratory disease and meet the growing demand for Respiratory Care Professionals here in Ohio. Thank you.