



Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 257

November 13, 2024

Jack Brubaker, Legislative Liaison, Ohio Board of Nursing

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the committee, on behalf of the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) please accept this written testimony in favor of House Bill 257. OBN regulates over 340,000 licensees and certificate holders across Ohio and is the state's largest occupational licensing board.

OBN currently oversees and facilitates regular meetings for seven advisory groups specific to the areas of advanced practice nursing, continuing education, dialysis, nursing education, community health workers, doulas, and rules. Members of each advisory group are not compensated for their service, however; they may be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred by OBN. These expenses may include gas mileage from their residence as well as parking fees.

Our advisory group members live in all different parts of the state and must take time off work to drive to Columbus to attend the meetings. Typically, three to four staff members of OBN will attend these advisory groups to deliver reports and schedule their date, time and location in advance.

Allowing each of OBN's advisory groups to meet virtually will save our staff significant time and resources which are currently spent on facilitating these regular meetings. Additionally, OBN believes that hosting these advisory groups virtually will encourage more public participation by citizens who do not have the ability to travel to Columbus to attend in-person.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at [Jack.Brubaker@nursing.ohio.gov](mailto:Jack.Brubaker@nursing.ohio.gov) or 614-373-0928.