

May 7th, 2024

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson and all distinguished members of the Senate Health Committee:

My name is Alicia Plemmons, PhD, and I am an assistant professor, research fellow, and coordinator in the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the bill to update several key areas of the administrative code to remove barriers and update antiquated language regarding nurse practitioners (SB 196). This comment is not submitted on behalf of any interest group, and instead is meant to provide educational insights from academic publications.

My research, and the research of my team, studies patient outcomes in terms of healthcare quality, cost, and access under different practice and prescriptive authority arrangements. Policies like SB 196 are crucial to keep modernizing healthcare to standard practices and cutting unnecessary red tape for patients. This bill would update language that allows nurse practitioners to sign a variety of medical documents that are within the scope of their training and experience. From the research, we have found these types of updates result in several beneficial outcomes for patients and families:

1. Reduced wait times and administrative burdens for patients, allowing patients to access necessary healthcare faster.
2. Reduced amounts of time physicians are spending on administrative tasks now that a wider variety of practitioners can engage with these documents. This allows physicians to spend more time in patient care, reducing malpractice rates for physicians.¹
3. Increasing access to time-efficient healthcare in rural and farming communities.²

The Governor of Ohio, with the Department of Health, has certified 12 counties as primary care healthcare shortage areas between 2021 and today. Modernizing statutes and codes to reduce outdated practices and red tape barriers can make a substantial and immediate difference to the families of Clark, Clinton, Columbiana, Defiance, Fairfield, Madison, Muskingum, Mercer, Paulding, Richland, Shelby, and Wyandot Counties.

In summary, the proposed language update represents an improvement for access to healthcare for the Buckeye State.

Best regards,



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¹ <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22507>

² <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1481803500015189>