

- **Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify as a proponent of SB 60.**
- **First, I want to just address the need to amend SB 60 . In late May there was an amended version of the bill. It removed language stating the State Medical Board was an accreditor and body who approved the Certified Mental Health Assistant Program’s Curriculum. This was an oversight, as the Higher Education Learning Commission would be the accreditor and the Ohio Department of Higher Education would approve the curriculum for the program. While the language was removed from the bill, it was not removed in the summary of the bill. This amendment corrects that issue. This was simply another technical change. Everything in the bill stays the same.**
- **Switching Gears, I will just give a couple statistics regarding the need for more mental health providers.**
- **According to HRSA, because of an increasing demand for psychiatric services and an aging population of psychiatrists, by 2035 the US will have only 70% of the psychiatrists it needs. There will be a national gap of approximately 14,000 psychiatrists.**

- **The situation is worse in Ohio. Between 2016 and 2030 Ohio is projected to lose over 300 psychiatrists leaving us with only 1060 psychiatrists when approximately 2020 are required to meet the mental health needs of Ohioans. We will have only 52% of the psychiatrists we need.**
- **Part or all of 43 Ohio counties are currently in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas impacting 4.9 million Ohioans.**
- **Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee, Thank you for allowing me to testify today as a proponent of SB 60. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.**