



Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96

House Health Committee

February 13, 2025

Good morning, Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee. My name is Marlene Anielski, and I serve as the Executive Director for the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and explain our budget request. Our proposed SFY 2026 budget is \$14.4 million and our SFY 2027 budget is \$14.8 million, which is essentially flat from the last biennium. See Exhibit 1.

OBN plays a critical role in public protection because nursing touches virtually every person in Ohio. The OBN, the largest licensing board, regulates nearly 300,000 licensees and certificate holders, including Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Dialysis Technicians, Community Health Workers, Certified Medication Aides, and Doulas. There are a total of 202 pre-licensure nursing programs, and 64 training programs. OBN staff is focused on outreach by presenting to nursing programs, associations, and employers.

The Board is comprised of thirteen members, eight RNs, four of whom are APRNs; four LPNs; and one consumer member, who are appointed by the Governor. The mission of the Ohio Board of Nursing is to actively safeguard the public through the equitable regulation of nursing and other healthcare professions. To achieve its mission and goals, the OBN consists of 82 permanent employees. In addition, we utilize 10 temporary staff.

OBN is wholly funded by licensure fees, the 4K90 Fund, and receives no additional funding from the state's general revenue fund (GRF). We are proud of the recent implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), and the Doula certification program, where the OBN has absorbed an escalating workload without seeking any fee increases in over 20 years. The OBN is one of several boards that deposit into the 4K90 fund as required by Ohio law.

In an effort to optimize efficiencies, OBN has prioritized process improvements, automated tasks for accuracy and speed, and applied the principles of LeanOhio, striving to be "simpler, faster, better and less costly." In September 2024, a collaboration of directors, administrators, investigators, attorneys, managers, and other agencies' staff attended our second OBN process improvement event (aka Kaizen), sponsored by LeanOhio, to dissect, identify areas of waste, and brainstorm solutions for the refinement of disciplinary processes.

OBN implemented an electronic disciplinary case management system in 2024. The new system reduces the amount of time spent by our attorneys to resolve a case by using digital delivery of files versus paying to mail the paper files.

In early 2024, our licensure staff implemented several new ways to improve the application process. One improvement included modifying the BCI/FBI background check form, used by WebCheck agencies, with the support of the Attorney General's office. It led to a 50% monthly reduction in staff time uploading paper background checks. Another improvement included OBN working with the Department of Administrative Services to improve credit card acceptance rates by 35%.

As required by Senate Bill 3 (134th GA), Ohio became the 38th state to join the Nurse Licensure Compact. As a result, over 38,000 Ohio multistate license (MSL) holders are allowed to practice here, as well as 42 other Compact states. There are over 6,500 non-Ohio MSL holders working in our state.

In closing, the Ohio Board of Nursing has a tremendous responsibility to be compassionate stewards, acting in the public's best interest to protect and serve Ohioans by ensuring our licensees and certificate holders practice to the highest level of their profession, while maintaining accountability and integrity. The OBN appreciates your continued support on behalf of Ohio's healthcare professionals and the public for whom they care. I thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today about our budget request and look forward to our continued collaborative communication with the Administration and the General Assembly. I welcome your questions and comments.

Warm personal regards,



Marlene Anielski, MBA, OCPM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXHIBIT 1:

FY 2026 - 2027 Operating Budget Request and Recommendation**Board of Nursing**

Fund Code	Appropriation Line Item	FY 2026	FY 2027
5AC0	884602 Nurse Education Grant Program*	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
4K90	884609 Operating Expenses	\$13,033,034	\$13,491,425
	NUR Total	\$14,383,034	\$14,841,425

* The Nurse Education Grant Program was extended in Sub. H.B. 33 (135th GA) to sunset on 12/31/2033. The NEGP awards funding to nurse education programs that partner with healthcare facilities, community health agencies or patient centered medical homes to increase their nursing enrollment capacity.