

April 30, 2025

**In Support of H.R. No. 87 – Designating May 6–12, 2025, as Nurses and Health Professionals Week**

Ohio House of Representatives  
136th General Assembly

Chair Schmidt and members of the House Health Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA), I submit this written testimony in strong support of House Resolution 87, which designates the week of May 6 through 12, 2025, as Nurses and Health Professionals Week in the State of Ohio. I also offer our sincere thanks to Representative Lorenz for sponsoring this resolution to highlight the importance of nurses and healthcare professionals across the state.

As a registered nurse and the President and Executive Director of ONA, I am one of the over 200,000 dedicated nurses and healthcare professionals across Ohio. We work in hospitals, clinics, schools, long-term care facilities, and homes—delivering essential, high-quality care to patients and communities every day.

This resolution is a timely and meaningful acknowledgment of the extraordinary contributions we make. Nurses and healthcare professionals have long been vital to Ohio's healthcare system, and in recent years, they have continued to answer the call during unprecedented public health challenges—including the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing opioid crisis, and the current measles outbreak. Despite these hardships, we remain steadfast in our commitment to care, compassion, and excellence.

Importantly, this resolution aligns with Ohio Nurses and Health Professionals Day at the Statehouse on May 8, 2025, during which more than 100 nurses and healthcare professionals from across Ohio will meet with legislators to share their firsthand expertise and advocate for a stronger, more sustainable healthcare system. The timing of this recognition adds even more significance to that event and reinforces the value of direct engagement between healthcare professionals and policymakers.

The Ohio Nurses Association is grateful for your leadership and your commitment to the health and well-being of all Ohioans. We respectfully urge your support for H.R. No. 87 and look forward to continued collaboration on issues impacting the nursing profession and healthcare workforce.

Sincerely,

**Rick Lucas, RN**  
President and Executive Director  
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