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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and esteemed members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today in support of my resolution to establish Nurses Week in the state of Ohio.

This resolution is both personal and deeply meaningful to me. My wife is a nurse, and over the years, I have witnessed firsthand the sacrifices she has made for her patients and for our community. While many families gather for holidays, weekends, and evenings at home, she has often been at the bedside—caring for the sick, comforting the dying, and offering hope in the most difficult moments of people's lives. She has missed birthdays and anniversaries, not out of obligation, but out of love for her profession and a commitment to serving others.

And she is just one of thousands of nurses across Ohio who do the same, day in and day out. Nurses are often the first to arrive in a crisis and the last to leave when the work is done. They are caregivers, advocates, educators, and counselors. They work long shifts, carry emotional weight, and continue to show up with empathy, strength, and skill. They are truly the unsung heroes of our healthcare system.

Ohio has a proud history of nursing. We are home to some of the earliest nursing schools in the country, and many of our institutions have produced leaders in health care and public health for over a century. From the nurses who served in wartime, to those who guided communities through the polio epidemic, to those on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio's nurses have always been there when we've needed them most. That legacy of courage and care continues today in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, clinics, and homes across our state. Establishing a formal Nurses Week in Ohio is one way we can honor this legacy and recognize the continuing contributions of today's nurses. It's a chance for us as a state to say: We see you. We value you. We thank you.

As a legislator, and as a husband to a nurse, I respectfully urge your support for this resolution. It is long overdue, and it is the least we can do to show our gratitude for everything nurses do for our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.