



**SB 149 Informational Testimony
Senate Health Committee
June 18, 2025**

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

My name is Abigail Mortell, and I am a policy analyst from the National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council of State Governments (CSG). CSG facilitated the development of the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact (RCIC) as part of a project with the American Association for Respiratory Care and the United States Department of Defense.

The RCIC is similarly structured to several of the compacts Ohio previously enacted, including the Counseling, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy Compacts. Through the RCIC, a respiratory therapist who lives in a compact member state and meets the requirements of the compact may obtain a compact privilege to practice in another member state. Distribution of compact privileges is expedited by the compact's data system, which also enhances public protection by offering a mechanism for states to share disciplinary history of licensees.

The primary requirement for practitioners wanting to voluntarily participate in the compact is to hold a qualifying credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). While practitioners with either a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) or Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential may utilize the compact, CRT holders can only obtain a privilege in states where the CRT is the minimum standard for licensure. Given the RRT certification is the minimum standard in Ohio, only practitioners with that credential would be eligible to apply for a privilege to practice in this state.

The RCIC was first made available for enactment this legislative session. As of June 16, 2025, the compact has been enacted in four states. There is also legislation currently filed in Wisconsin. The compact commission will be convened and begin the operationalization process after the seventh state enactment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB 149. CSG is available to assist with any questions regarding the RCIC or interstate compact policy.

Respectfully,

Abigail Mortell

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