Ohio House of Representatives

Representative Kellie Deeter
House District 54

Representative Brian Stewart
House District 12

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 440.

This legislation was brought to me by the Attorney General's office to clarify the background check process within the Ohio Board of Nursing at the request of the FBI. Importantly, House Bill 440 does not change the process, requirements, or oversight of background checks. It simply provides clarification to ensure that access to criminal records is limited strictly to the Board of Nursing, rather than a broader group of individuals when performed for licensure. This bill does not apply to background checks for employment purposes. Finally, this bill does not require or mandate any additional background checks for those seeking licensure in the State of Ohio.

The inclusion of the emergency clause is necessary to prevent any interruption of BCI's access to national background check databases due to the current, unclear statutory language.

I want to thank the Attorney General's office for identifying this issue and bringing it forward, as well as my joint sponsor, Representative Stewart, whose legal expertise has been invaluable in advancing this legislation. This bill was passed unanimously out of the House Health Committee and off the House Floor.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 440. Representative Stewart and I will be happy to answer any questions.