



September 30, 2015

Re: SB 33- Cultural Competency

Chairwoman Jones and members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA), I am writing this letter in opposition of SB 33, a bill that would require certain health care professionals to complete instruction in cultural competency.

The Ohio Nurses Association believes this proposed legislation is redundant because registered nurses already receive cultural competency training in nursing education programs. In fact, the Ohio Board of Nursing requires nursing education programs to include cultural competency content throughout the curricula. Chapter 4723-5-13: Curriculum for a registered nursing education program, of the Ohio Administrative Code includes the following language:

*(F)The curriculum shall consist of course content in nursing art and science, the physical biological and technological sciences, and social and behavioral sciences. This content may be integrated, combined, or presented as separate courses as follows:*

*(1) Nursing art and sciences applied in a variety of settings to individuals or groups across the life span, that include by are not limited to:*

*(b) The application of nursing care concepts in addressing the physiological, psychological, cultural and spiritual needs of clients.*

*(7) Social and behavioral sciences that are necessary to understand the effect of a client's religious, spiritual, cultural, and growth and developmental experiences on the client's health, the client's attitude toward health maintenance, and to effectively communicate with the client.*

Because cultural competency education is embedded throughout nursing education programs, students are expected to answer questions on this very topic when taking their NCLEX-RN licensing examination. The NCLEX-RN Detailed Test Plan for Nurse Educators also explains that educators must teach students to incorporate client cultural practice and beliefs when planning and providing care and teach content on cultural awareness and the cultural influences on health.

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The Recognized Leader and Advocate for Professional Nursing in Ohio

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The Joint Commission released a statement on cultural competence in 2010 entitled, *Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care: A Roadmap for Hospitals*. The Joint Commission states, “[...] studies show that incorporating the concepts of cultural competence and patient- and family-centeredness into the care process can increase patient satisfaction and adherence with treatment.” Through evidence-based research and studies the Joint Commission speaks to, many hospitals require annual cultural sensitivity continuing education. For example, the Ohio State University Medical Center requires that healthcare professionals complete an annual computer-based continuing education module on cultural sensitivity and they are not the only hospital system to have such requirement.

ONA believes that given the preparation nursing students receive in their formal undergraduate education programs and the continuing education requirements hospital systems require of their healthcare professionals, a general cultural competency continuing education requirement to receive or renew licensure through the Ohio Board of Nursing is not only redundant, but extremely prescriptive.

ONA is further concerned that requiring cultural competency continuing education sets a precedent for requiring other disease or situation specific continuing education in the future. It is helpful for individual nurses to be able to identify various educational programs pertinent to their area of practice and the specific populations/cultures they come in contact with, rather than mandating disease or situation specific education.

Again, all licensed nurses are responsible for advancing their education relative to the types of care they provide and the population they come in contact with. This is a cornerstone of nursing already established in the Ohio Administrative Code and does not require further mandation. The Ohio Nurses Association asks that you oppose SB 33. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Good Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany D. Wenter', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tiffany D. Wenter BSN, RN

DEO-Government Relations & Professional Engagement

Ohio Nurses Association

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