



Chairman Huffman and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on SB 259 - the Physician Assistants Bill.

I will briefly explain why this bill benefits physicians, physician assistants, and patients across the state of Ohio.

My name is Dr. Jonathan Leizman. I am Board Certified in Family Medicine and serve as Medical Director for Cleveland Clinic At Work®, where I oversee 10 employee health clinics for Ohio employers. These range from a Northeast Ohio school district to local sites of Fortune 500 companies. Previously, I served as Medical Director for Cleveland Clinic's Regional Urgent & Express Care clinics. In both capacities, I have supervised numerous Physician Assistants.

On a daily basis, I work with employers to help protect and enhance the health of their employees.

At Cleveland Clinic, where we have saved over \$235 million in our own employees' health costs over the past decade, we understand the critical role that access to health care plays in achieving positive outcomes. Better access to care contributes to improved quality of care. Higher quality care translates to more cost-effective care. Better access, higher quality, and more cost-effective care all lead to greater satisfaction with health care.

As you know, health care delivery is evolving from a fee-for-service, episodic care paradigm to a more global model, often referred to as population health management. Cleveland Clinic has proudly played a lead role in this changing world, where teams of our health providers, practicing at the top of their respective licensure, collaborate to deliver care to patients, yielding efficiencies and quality outcomes for patients. In Cleveland Clinic health centers and hospitals, physicians serve as the leader of these professional teams.

This multi-disciplinary and collaborative team model includes physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, medical assistants, care coordinators, and others. The enormity of our citizenry's growing health care needs and the shared goals of efficient and effective care demand that providers practice to the extent their licensure allows, within one's clinical competencies, and under appropriate supervision.

It is our belief that physician assistants should practice within their competencies, to the extent that their licensure allows, and under appropriate supervision. For that reason we support the following provisions in this bill:

- Eliminating the requirement that a physician assistant seeking an Ohio license based on service in another jurisdiction, the U.S. armed forces, or the U.S. Public Health Service have practiced for at least three consecutive years in the other jurisdiction or service.
- Permitting a physician assistant to delegate to another person the task of administering a drug only if the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe that drug.



- Increasing to five (from three) the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise at any one time.
- Explicitly prohibiting a physician assistant from prescribing any drug in violation of state or federal law.

Fostering an environment where Physician Assistants can work within their clinical competencies, to the extent of their licensure, and while properly supervised helps increase access to health care.

Senate Bill 259 will allow us to build upon our team-based model by allowing us to further employ physician assistants to help address and treat acute and chronic health care needs.

As a physician who sees patients and believes in a multi-disciplinary care model, I support SB 259.

Chairman Huffman - thank you once again for the opportunity to speak before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee today. I would be happy to take any questions.