

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, and members of the Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, my name is Dr. Kelly Cloonan DNP, CNE, MSN, RN, IAC. I am a Registered Nurse in the state of Ohio testifying in support of Senate Bill 341.

I have worked in nursing education for ten years and have encountered many challenges due to Ohio not being in the nursing compact. Not allowing Ohio in the compact may prevent future Ohio nursing students from receiving a timely education due to instructors being required to have an Ohio nursing license. This limits Ohio students from continuing their nursing degrees and furthering their careers in Ohio. As an online educator, I have been denied positions due to not having a compact license. It forces me to get licenses from many other states in order to teach students outside of Ohio. It has been a hurdle in my career along with many of my fellow Ohio colleagues. I have been teaching online for the past 6 years. It has proven to be an excellent avenue of choice for me and for many Ohio nurses. Online education will only continue to grow and being a part of the Nurse Compact will allow educational opportunities for Ohio based instructors and students. Entering the compact may also allow our Ohio colleges to offer education on site and around the country.

Ohio should become a part of the compact using this past year as a pivotal example. COVID continues to sweep across our nation and nurses are at the front lines. Currently, as I write this, hospitalizations are increasing every day. What is to happen when those nurses get sick? We may need relief from other states. However, not allowing Ohio to be in the compact creates an obstacle for those to come and assist. Quick decisions and temporary processes must go into place to meet these needs. Already having that plan in place will reduce stress and rushed decisions when a health crisis strikes. Having Ohio as part of the compact would ensure quick support from nurses in other compact states to easily come and alleviate the nursing deficits in Ohio. Not knowing what the future holds, nurses should be united to care for our nation and provide help where needed.

As nurses, we take one national examination to prove we are ready for care at the bedside. We have one set of ethical principles as our guide. We should have one license to provide our country with the best care possible where the needs are the greatest. Adding Ohio into the compact allows Ohioans to have more opportunities, both through job opportunities and educational opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached at DrKellyCloonan@gmail.com and am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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