

November 14, 2020

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to offer my support for consideration and passage of Senate Bill 341- for Ohio to enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact sponsored by Senator Roegner. I have held multiple roles in my nursing career that have been negatively impacted due to limitations in recognizing nursing licensing across states lines.

My current role is Nurse Manager of Telehealth services. The nurses on my team provide telephone triage services for patients served by our organization. Due to not having a compact licensure agreement, if our patients travel outside of the state of Ohio, my nurses are not able to provide any services for them. A common example is that patients go on vacation and have a medical concern or need a prescription refill, and my nurses are unable to provide them any information. The patients then have to go to out of state Emergency Departments or Urgent Care Centers which is the most expensive form of healthcare, and the patients need to be treated by providers who aren't familiar with their care needs. The Nurse Licensure Compact would allow the patients to continue to be treated efficiently and expertly by providers who are familiar with their needs.

In my previous role, I managed Cardiology clinics around the state of Ohio. Several were clinics on the boarder of other states (Pennsylvania or West Virginia) but located in Ohio. My nurses could treat patients that came into Ohio in our clinic, but could not provide any services to them if they were in their home state (often a 10 minute drive across the state line) because their licenses aren't recognized in other states. The Nurse Licensure would allow the nurses to provide care and recognize their licenses, while maintaining a national database so that all states could verify the nurse's credentials and ability to practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration in allowing Ohio to enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact. This is a common sense bill that has already been adapted by 34 states that allows state boards of nursing to focus their attention on supporting nurses in their practice and protecting patient safety instead of the administrative burden it currently has of maintaining separate licensure.

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