



November 30, 2020

Dear Chairman Burke and members of the committee:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center is pleased to offer our support to Ohio Senate Bill 341, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the national Nurse Licensure Compact. Cincinnati Children's currently employs close to 5000 Registered Nurses who provide exceptional nursing care to patients in not only the tri-state region of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, but also care for patients in all 50 states.

Ambulatory and telehealth services are integral pieces in Cincinnati Children's long-term strategy to improve outcomes and child health. To provide nursing care via telehealth mechanisms, nurses must possess a license in the state which the patient resides. Enacting the Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) will greatly improve the autonomy of our nurses in the telehealth arena and allow the patients and families we serve to continue to choose Cincinnati Children's as their health care destination. Telehealth nursing has become increasingly difficult with Ohio being a single state license and has required our nursing workforce to seek single state licenses in other states to provide adequate pre and post visit nursing assessments to our existing patient populations. In addition to telehealth services, we currently have ambulatory clinic sites in both Indiana and Kentucky; therefore, entering the NLC would provide greater professional mobility and staff availability to our patient sites.

The NLC provides greater professional mobility for nurses who primarily reside in Ohio. The NLC will enhance our ability to recruit talented nurses from within and beyond the state borders of Ohio. Our organization believes that the NLC will improve information sharing across states, encourages compliance, and will overall improve the professional and occupational satisfaction for the nurses that we employ. The benefits of Ohio's participation in the NLC are numerous to our organization and the profession of nursing. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in favor of SB 341.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tofani, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
SVP Patient Services