



Senate Bill 3 Opponent Testimony

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and members of the House Health Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony today. My name is Anthony Caldwell, and I am here today as both a concerned Ohioan, and as a representative of SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH. I will be providing opposition testimony to Senate Bill 3 because I believe it is unfair, unsafe, and could hurt our communities.

As Ohio begins to recover from the recession driven in large part by the pandemic, the last thing our state's frontline heroes need is Senate Bill 3.

Senate Bill 3 is unfair to Ohio's healthcare heroes because it puts them in direct competition with nurses from other states for their own jobs. Just like Ohio's oil and gas pipeline workers who have had to fight for Ohio jobs against people from Texas, Louisiana, and other states, this would create an unfair disadvantage for Ohio nurses who would be forced into direct competition with workers from other states, for their own jobs.

This is especially true in situations involving workers who choose to exercise their collective bargaining rights, as this would allow non-Union, out-of-state nurses – also known as SCABS – to be used to displace those nurses on strike or who have been locked out by their employers.

Senate Bill 3 is also unsafe because no one knows their patients better than the local heroes who live and work in the communities they serve. When a patient needs the caring hands and hearts of a nurse, they want someone they know and trust. Local nurses don't just provide exceptional care, they are also community leaders, members of your church's congregation, or leaders of your local Scout Troop. Ohio caregivers know more than just good medicine; they also know how to provide a level of care that gives patients a piece of mind.

For example, a Cincinnati nurse who is working and licensed in both Kentucky and Ohio is trained to identify regional health concerns. In Kentucky, those involve recognizing the signs of abuse and focusing on malnutrition. In Ohio, we struggle with an abysmal infant mortality rate. This specific knowledge and required training would be lost as Ohio joins other states to be part of a multi-state compact.



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Lastly, Senate Bill 3 could hurt us all because it would take oversight and accountability away from the Ohio Board of Nursing and give more power to an unknown entity that is not accountable to the citizens, nor the lawmakers, of the State of Ohio.

Senate Bill 3 will create an entity that can meet in secret and accept outside money from donors. Hasn't Ohio learned what happens with unregulated or quasi-regulated industries? By taking this power away from Ohio's trusted nurse accreditation agency, there is no real way to gauge the level of experience, education, or bedside manner for out-of-state nurses. And there is no way to know the impact those undisclosed donations will have on the secret meetings of this new authority.

Respectfully, many leaders in our General Assembly oppose ceding local control over licensing and regulatory issues. This bill just does that. In fact, the Attorneys General in Oklahoma, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, and Nebraska have rendered formal opinions that the multi-state nurse licensure compact interferes with state sovereignty.

Senate Bill 3 could take away your oversight over the rules and regulations that protect Ohio's nurses and patients. And it is not in the public interest to turn over health and welfare of Ohioans to a complicated regulatory mechanism that polices itself and sets its own rules. Ohioans should make decisions about what is in the best interest of Ohioans.

Bottom line – Senate Bill 3 will cost Ohio workers jobs. Every job that goes to an out-of-state nurse is a job that is not going to a hard-working, tax-paying Ohioan who has spent their time and money earning the privilege of being an Ohio nurse. And just like those out-of-state oil and gas workers, those nurses from other places are going to send that money back home rather than investing it here in our small towns and local economies. With hospitals often being the largest regional employer, that ripple effect will hurt small businesses and local job creators who work in tandem to grow and support local economies.

Don't be fooled by the simplistic language in this bill. Don't turn your back on Ohio's healthcare heroes and allow the jobs of local nurses to be given away from out-of-state workers.

Senate Bill 3 is bad for jobs, bad for business, bad for nurses, and is bad for Ohio.