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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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

UAW Local 2213 Professional Registered Nurses Unit is opposed to this proposed legislation. We believe it will place an unfair burden on nurses. It allows for disparate treatment of nurses between the different states. The Compact bill allows the original issuing state licensing board jurisdiction of discipline, which might be a different punishment than in the actual state in which the nurse is currently practicing.

Currently each state has its own nurse practice act which dictates how a Registered Nurse can provide care and delegate to unlicensed personnel. These practice acts can differ from state to state and are currently enforced by each state's own nursing board.

We believe this law will also weaken our nursing practice standards by matching them to other states which may or may not hold nurses to the high standards that we have in Ohio. In turn, this could decrease the high standard of care that the patients in Ohio are currently receiving.

We believe the current process in the state of Ohio should continue, allowing nurses in Ohio to continue practicing nursing at a high standard of care.

It is important for nurses to be properly vetted before allowing them to practice in the state of Ohio. We currently have a moratorium for nurses who want to practice in our state. This allows for proper vetting of these potential practicing nurses. This current practice provides patients and their families the peace of mind that only the very best nurses are allowed to practice in our state.

Thank for your time in allowing me to express my concerns about this very important legislation.

Susan Pratt RN