

Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
Pamela Murphy - Chamberlain University
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 6
March 24, 2021

Chairperson Roegner, Vice Chair McColley and Ranking Member Craig,

Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on House Bill 6 sponsored by Representative Roemer. My name is Pamela Murphy, and I am the Vice President, Government Relations and Sustainability, at Adtalem Global Education. Adtalem partners with organizations to proactively address future workforce needs and empowers career development with access to world-class academic curriculums, certifications and training programs across the medical and healthcare and financial services industries. Adtalem is the parent organization of four medical and healthcare institutions, to include Chamberlain University, which is comprised of a College of Nursing and a College of Health Professions. In Ohio, Chamberlain operates two nursing campuses located in Columbus and Cleveland. With a 130-year history, Chamberlain's mission is to educate, empower and embolden diverse healthcare professionals who advance the health of people, families, and communities.

This core mission has a direct correlation to the outcomes that House Bill 6 seeks to achieve. Challenges from COVID-19 have cut across all aspects of our society and personal lives. One of the most dramatic impacts has been in the world of healthcare, as healthcare professionals, resources, research and facilities have been called to high alert to prevent the disease, treat the sick and inoculate our citizens from future infection. Healthcare professionals across many disciplines have stepped up to provide their very best during this difficult time.

From Chamberlain's perspective, House Bill 6 seeks to continue this "all hands on deck" approach by allowing nurses and nursing students to continue their critical role in helping fight COVID-19. This legislation allows pre-licensure examination nurses to receive a short-term license to practice in their chosen field. By allowing these individuals to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, Ohio will increase more professionals to the healthcare workforce combatting the virus across a variety of fronts. More professionals to provide care, administer vaccines and provide relief to other workers will only help our state at this critical time. The General Assembly was certainly correct in granting this authority in House Bill 197 of the 133rd General Assembly and would be wise to provide the extension of this same authority that this bill allows.

We also strongly support the aspects of House Bill 6 that allow for flexibility for institutions like Chamberlain to tailor their clinical experiences for students in order to overcome the barriers that the pandemic has created. The ability to create alternative experiences, assignments and instruction in the 2021-2022 academic year will help students seeking nursing degrees have meaningful and necessary clinical experiences that may be outside the norm. The guidance in designing these alternative programs both in the legislation as well as through the Department of Higher Education's guidance will ensure these alternatives are thorough and responsible.

In summary, we believe this legislation will provide another boost to our collective efforts to battle the pandemic. Putting more healthcare professionals on the front line will only be a positive factor in winning this battle against COVID-19. Chamberlain University and its graduates and students look forward to continuing to work with you to provide the best care and service to Ohio's citizens.

If I can provide you any information about this legislation or the operation of Chamberlain University, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Ohio counsel, Steve Buehrer, at 614-365-4107. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important bill and for your ongoing service to this great state.

Cc: Representative Roemer