



Senate Bill 3 – Proponent Testimony
Senate Health Committee
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 3, which would permit Ohio to enter the national Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). My name is Meredith Foxx, and I am Executive Chief Nursing Officer at Cleveland Clinic.

The Stanley Shalom Zielony Institute for Nursing Excellence at Cleveland Clinic oversees the practice and education of nearly 23,000 nursing caregivers within the Nursing Institute in Cleveland Clinic's health system in inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation and home care fields. Hospital and surgical nurses provide care for patients in over 4,500 hospital beds and over 225 operating rooms throughout 11 hospitals, 19 family health and surgery centers, and 3 health and wellness centers. Cleveland Clinic's fast-paced, technologically advanced environment allows nurses to learn, grow and remain professionally challenged while shaping their careers.

As the health system's largest caregiver group, the nurses of Cleveland Clinic have vast experience and diverse expertise. Our nurses work in every setting and can be found in positions of leadership, advanced practice, quality, research, education and more.

With advancements in telehealth in recent years, and with the unprecedented challenges that have resulted from the coronavirus pandemic, the nursing profession is more critical than ever. Senate Bill 3 would allow Ohio to improve the delivery of patient care and be more competitive by becoming a member of the Nursing Licensure Compact.

The Nursing Licensure Compact allows for nurses who are residents of NLC states to practice in other NLC states without having to obtain additional licenses.

Patient care as a whole can benefit from more states that join the NLC. In total, 34 states are currently a part of the NLC, including a majority of the states surrounding Ohio: Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. In addition, legislation is currently pending in six states, including Pennsylvania and Michigan. Ohio joining the NLC will make the state more competitive in retaining and attracting nurses, who otherwise may wish to move to a border state to practice.

Senate Bill 3 is especially beneficial to Cleveland Clinic nurses due to our growing presence in Florida, which is currently a member of the NLC. The Florida region is an integral part of Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, with five hospitals and numerous outpatient centers in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. Having Ohio join Florida as part of the NLC, would allow our nurses to be portable between the two states to care for patients. The need for such mobility is highlighted during the current coronavirus pandemic, where more caregivers may be needed to address growing patient volumes in different parts of the system.



In addition, when Cleveland Clinic needs to support long distance, virtual care, the NLC will avoid having to require nurses to obtain several licenses to practice. With telehealth as the future of healthcare, this is especially critical.

Again, Cleveland Clinic supports Senate Bill 3 and urges the committee to be supportive as well. We thank the bill sponsor, Senator Kristina Roegner, for being a champion of bills like this that address occupational licensing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am available to be contacted with any questions you may have.