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Jayne Lachey Gmeiner, MS, RN, NEA-BC
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Proponent Testimony, Ohio Senate Bill 3 (SB 3)
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
January 27, 2021

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and the members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, my name is Jayne Lachey Gmeiner, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer at Dayton Children's, where I have served since 2015. Thank you for the opportunity to express our hospital's support and submit proponent testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 3 (SB 3). I would also like to express the appreciation of Dayton Children's to Senator Kristina Roegner, a member of this committee, for her time, effort and thoughtfulness in drafting this legislation.

Dayton Children's is committed to ensuring that all of our providers, including all of our nurses, are able to provide safe and effective health care services to the patients and families we are privileged to serve. Further, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), through the Magnet Recognition Program, has distinguished Dayton Children's with Magnet status for our commitment to nursing excellence and outstanding performance by the entire organization. Less than 7% of U.S. health care organizations (including only 37 children's hospitals) have achieved Magnet status, and we are proud that Dayton Children's has received continued designation as a Magnet organization in 2013 and 2018.

While providing care in our communities, we know it is crucial for nurses to be able to comply with state licensure laws that cross state lines. The provision of care to patients in states where the nurse is not licensed poses potential legal concerns regarding the nurse's unlicensed practice in those states. Nurses are faced with a decision to either treat a patient in a state where they are not licensed or to decline providing care to that patient, often after a nurse/patient relationship has been established. This raises potential individual practice ethical dilemmas between meeting the need to provide care for a patient and the need to comply with state licensure regulations, which place the nurse, patient, and health care organization at risk. This situation occurs frequently because of nurses who provide telehealth care, home health, long-distance monitoring of patients, hospital follow-up care and due to the increased mobility of the nursing workforce across state lines.

As outlined in SB 3, the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license in their primary state of residence and to practice in other compact states, while being subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. Participation in the eNLC facilitates the safe, effective delivery of health care by nurses while reducing the risks of practicing in states where they are not licensed. Further, in catastrophic situations, the ability to quickly mobilize emergency nursing staff is essential. Having expedited access to licensed, qualified, and competent nurses that are guaranteed through the eNLC is imperative during these times of crisis. Currently, Ohio is nearly surrounded by states participating in the eNLC. Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana joined the compact, while Pennsylvania and Michigan have introduced legislation to join the compact.

The current coronavirus pandemic has providers expanding access to care by increasing telehealth technology usage. Nurses are available 24 hours a day to handle telephone coverage, and without endorsement of multistate nursing licensure, the intended use of telehealth services may be limited, which could



negatively impact access to care. Dayton Children's continues to have needs to expand care to patients that come from specifically Indiana and Kentucky and with our medical specialists we also extend to additional regions in the country based on unique patient needs. The nurse compact will support the provision of nursing care to all patients, regardless of the state in which they reside and allow for this to be done efficiently without requiring nurses to hold and maintain multiple nursing licenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to share Dayton Children's feedback. I respectfully request that this committee favorably respond to Ohio Senate Bill 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jayne Lachey Gmeiner".

Jayne Lachey Gmeiner, MS, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer
Dayton Children's Hospital