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Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee.

Premier Health has a mission to build healthier communities. To actualize this mission, we must have a talented, experienced and highly trained nursing staff who are available to serve our patients. The current pandemic has only exacerbated the need to have qualified nurses. I am writing on behalf of Premier Health in support of Ohio Senate Bill 3 (SB3).

We fully understand that it is crucial for nurses to comply with state licensure laws that cross state lines. Issues arise frequently for those providing telehealth, home health, long-distance monitoring of patients, hospital follow-up care and also the increasing mobility of nurses who cross state lines.

As is outlined in SB3, the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) allows registered nurses (RN's) 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, competent nurses who 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.

We believe that the passage of SB3 will enhance our ability to staff our hospitals and other entities and also lend a hand in areas such as telemedicine that continues to see an increasing demand on the part of our patients. We appreciate your consideration as we work together to provide the health care needs of our community now and in the future.