



**State Representatives  
John Patterson & Sarah LaTourette**

House Bill 541  
Sponsor Testimony  
House Health Committee  
March 21, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and distinguished members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 541. This legislation would allow certain out-of-state licensed healthcare professionals to provide healthcare services as a volunteer during a charitable event without obtaining a permanent Ohio license to do so. Our legislation limits the duration of practicing at such a charitable event (a volunteer medical clinic) to no more than seven days.

The healthcare professionals included in this legislation are as follows:

- physicians
- physician assistants
- podiatrists
- dentists
- dental hygienists
- registered nurses
- advanced practice registered nurses
- licensed practical nurses
- opticians
- optometrists

The aforementioned healthcare providers must still act within their profession's scope of practice and follow requirements laid out by each profession's respective licensure board.

Licensed healthcare professionals in good standing with their respective states' licensing boards must currently go through the process of acquiring Ohio licensure simply to participate in free temporary health clinics. These individuals, willing to donate their time and money to provide free quality healthcare to those in need, deserve a reprieve from the fees associated with a special activity license. The cost for such licensure is \$125, in addition to any supplemental liability and malpractice coverage the provider may have to obtain to participate in the clinic.

The first clinic of its kind to come to Ohio through the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps, will be coming to Ashtabula, Ohio next month. This clinic is scheduled for the duration of three days. This three-day clinic duration appears to be common for similar clinics that take place in other underserved areas across the country, which is well within the legislation's seven-day limit. Doors open at 6 AM each day for the first patient admissions; and due to the anticipated demand for the clinic's free medical services, which include dental and vision services, staff begin supplying patients with admission tickets at 3 AM. While we are cognizant of the fact that this legislation is not likely to be enacted before the Ashtabula clinic, we are hopeful that providers involved in future clinics of a similar nature will be able to utilize what we have put forth in House Bill 541.

The substitute bill you see before you today, L 132 2186-3, is the product of feedback from the State Medical Board on the As Introduced version of the bill. In an effort to ensure that temporary license holders are held to the same high standards our state's permanent license holders are, a provision has been added to allow each appropriate Ohio licensing board to take disciplinary action against a temporary license holder when jurisdictionally appropriate for the licensing board to do so. To be clear, if a disciplinary action is to be taken by one of the boards contained within the bill, the same due process afforded permanent license holders must be upheld for the temporary license holders. We agree that the quality and appropriateness of care must continue to be a priority and this beneficial addition to the bill accomplishes that goal.

House Bill 541, which is modeled after West Virginia's law, seeks to enable philanthropic healthcare professionals from other states to volunteer their services to some of the region's most remote and underserved communities. As these providers seek to address some of our state's most vulnerable communities' healthcare issues, we hope to alleviate some the burden placed on those same providers.

Chairman Huffman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us to testify on House Bill 541. We are happy to respond to any questions you may have at this time.