



BEFORE THE SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY REVIEW
COMMITTEE

SENATOR SCHURING CHAIR

TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY M. GASPAR, PhD, RN
DEAN
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING

DECEMBER 1, 2020



Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 673 on behalf of Cleveland State University (CSU). My name is Timothy M. Gaspar, PhD, RN and I am the Dean of Nursing at CSU.

The CSU School of Nursing appreciates the work of the Ohio legislature on HB 197, which was a timely and impactful response to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the legislation allowed for greater flexibility in the field of nursing and assisted with matching workforce to the needs that continue to exist in the health care space. As our State continues to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the workforce need remains and will continue. With this in mind, CSU supports the provision of HB 673 that extends the expiration date of the temporary nurse licensure language enacted in HB 197 to July 1, 2021. While there is reason for optimism about the promise of a vaccine to help mitigate the current surge in COVID-19 cases, the need for nurses and health care workforce will not subside overnight. Even in the case of a rapid vaccine roll out, we simply cannot deliver widespread vaccination and immunity to the virus by the current expiration date of March 1, 2021 as enacted in HB 197. We believe the reasonable extension to July 1, 2021 will continue the ability for our nursing students completing their program of study to be able to enter the workforce in a time when their talents are needed most. Passage of HB 673 will support qualified new graduates to move into the workforce in a timely manner and support their nursing careers in the State of Ohio.

Thank you Chairman Schuring and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review committee for the opportunity to voice our support of HB 673. We encourage its favorable passage. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Gaspar, PhD, RN
Cleveland State University
School of Nursing
2121 Euclid Ave, JH249
Cleveland, OH 44115
419-277-3425 (Cell)
216-523-7237 (WK)
t.gaspar@csuohio.edu (E-mail)