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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today in support of House Bill 673 on behalf of the University of Cincinnati. My name is Dr. Greer Glazer and I am the Dean of UC's College of Nursing.

The College of Nursing was established in 1889, first founded as the Cincinnati Training School for Nurses. UC's College of Nursing was the first college to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and among the first colleges to offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. In 2018, we were recognized for the third time as an Apple Distinguished School. Our program offers students co-op opportunities and we have launched the iCoN initiative, which redefines traditional nursing education. We have more than 15,500 alumni reflecting our tradition of leadership and improving the health of individuals and communities.

The University of Cincinnati supports this provision and the state's efforts to facilitate and expedite the education of those working towards a healthcare degree during this critical time in our fight against COVID-19. Our graduates will not only care for the sick and injured, but also engage in groundbreaking research to solve pressing global health problems including researching the cause and effects of COVID-19 and developing vaccines and cures. We appreciate and support Representative Roemer's effort to help our students earn a credential, graduate in a healthcare field, and then join the workforce to serve Ohio communities.

The University of Cincinnati also supports the provisions in House Bill 673 that continues, until July 1, 2021, the suspension of the requirement that an applicant pass a licensure examination to receive a license to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

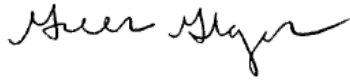
At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, many of our nursing students were negatively impacted, especially those nearing graduation and were initially unable to complete their clinical training. However, the enactment of House Bill 197, which took effect on March 27, granted the flexibility needed that led to the placement of nurses in the workforce in greater numbers and strengthen Ohio's healthcare system in the fight against the coronavirus. House Bill 673 extends those deadlines established in the previous legislation. We appreciate the sponsor's recognition of the value and need for our nurses as we continue to face this public health crisis.

UC further appreciates the sponsor's goal to reduce regulatory barriers in order to ensure that we provide a high-quality, high-value education to the students we serve – in the midst of a global

pandemic. House Bill 673 would facilitate that goal, making it easier for our students to get the training they need now and to join the workforce as soon as possible.

Thank you, Chairman Wiggam and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 673.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greer Glazer".

Greer Glazer, RN, CNP, PhD, FAAN
Dean, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing
Schmidlapp Professor of Nursing