

Testimony in Support of House Bill 673
Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee
December 1, 2020
Linda Lewandowski, Dean, College of Nursing
The University of Toledo

Chairman Schuring, Vice Chairman Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the General Government and Agency Review Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 673. We appreciate all the work that the legislature has done to help our state through these unprecedented times.

I am writing today on behalf of the University to register our support for the provisions in House Bill 673 that continue, 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; that specifies that a nursing license issued without examination is valid until July 1, 2021; and that requires the Nursing Board to count hours worked under a temporary license issued without examination towards any clinical experience that must be completed before a nurse is eligible to take the licensure examination, when the temporary license expires.

The flexibility that these provisions provide not only benefit our nursing students, but it also provides a much needed boost to our overburdened healthcare system by placing nursing graduates into the workforce in greater numbers. These provisions will continue to assist in getting qualified individuals to the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19.

Chairman Schuring and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to review this testimony on behalf of The University of Toledo in support of House Bill 673. Please feel free to contact me or members of our Office of Government Relations directly with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Lewandowski, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean, College of Nursing
Vice-Provost for Health Affairs for Interprofessional and Community Partnerships