

Memorandum to Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Russo, and House Health Committee Members Expressing Support for H.B. 5

From: Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council
Date: February 9, 2021
Subj: Proponent written testimony for H.B. 5

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council) I am pleased to share with the House Health Committee our support for H.B. 5. And I want to thank Representative Gayle Manning and her staff for their efforts to develop and advance this bill through the legislative process.

As this committee knows, Ohio and many other states are experiencing a healthcare workforce shortage – this challenge is growing into a crisis with respect to Ohio’s behavioral healthcare workforce. H.B. 5 would begin to address this challenge by maintaining the chemical dependency counselor II license and its scope of practice while establishing another option for individuals seeking to advance their careers within Ohio’s addiction treatment field.

H.B. 5 is sound policy and reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach. Indeed, H.B. 5 appears to strike an appropriate balance between the state’s interest in supporting the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board’s regulatory duties while also encouraging professional development and expanded addiction treatment capacity.

Accordingly, The Ohio Council urges this committee to support this well-vetted legislative proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to submit for the record our statement in support of H.B. 5.