



Ohio

Chemical Dependency
Professionals Board

Testimony before the House State and Local Government Committee

House Bill 452- Regarding the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board and its regulation of chemical dependency professionals

December 7, 2022

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I am Jill Smock, Executive Director of the Chemical Dependency Professionals (CDP) Board.

Thank you on behalf of the CDP Board for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony for the passage of HB452. The CDP board currently provides certification and licensure to close to 13,000 professionals with a scope of practice to provide substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health prevention services. CDP Board ensures these professionals have achieved a specialty focus of education and experience in substance use disorder treatment, or prevention, to provide skilled and competent services to the citizens of Ohio.

The behavioral health workforce shortage in Ohio is a topic of grave concern echoed by associations, treatment providers, the recovery community, individuals and families in need of substance use disorder treatment along with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and our Governor. This bill is imperative to be able to increase the workforce while maintaining the integrity and standards of the chemical dependency license. This bill will modernize and update the regulatory oversight of this Board to support recruitment and retention of chemical dependency/substance use disorder treatment professionals. It will assist individuals seeking to enter the field and encourage current professionals to advance their licensure without unnecessary barriers.

Also included in this bill is allowing the CDP Board to collect fines for discipline violations like most other occupational licensing boards, putting the board at par with other licensing boards. Our board has the authority to offer a master's degree endorsement to colleges and universities to have their course curriculum reviewed thus ensuring students the degree program they complete will meet the license education requirements. HB 452

would also allow that review to occur for associate and bachelor undergraduate degree programs as well. The bill also begins the language changes from the outdated term of “chemical dependency” to the more appropriate “substance use disorder”.

While some of the changes in this bill may seem minor language “clean up” changes, the CDP Board assures this Committee that without passage of HB 452, our board will continue to be unable to license worthy applicants who have dedicated years and substantial financial commitment to obtain licensure.

The Board would like to thank the bill sponsor Representative Gayle Manning and the Ohio Alliance for Recovery Providers, The Ohio Council, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and individuals who serve on the Education and Training and Treatment Committee of the CDP Board for working with Representative Manning during the drafting of HB452. Passage of this bill will allow the Board to update educational standards for substance use disorder treatment license applicants and decrease unnecessary barriers for licensure thus addressing critical workforce needs in our State.

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 452. I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted by

Jill Smock

Executive Director

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