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**Proponent Testimony, Ohio Senate Bill 3 Nurse Licensure Compact (SB 3)
Ohio Senate Health Committee
February 3, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 3.

Summa Health is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery systems within the state of Ohio. Formed in 1989 by the merger of Akron City and St. Thomas Hospitals, the nonprofit system now encompasses a network of four hospitals, eight community-based health centers, a health insurance entity, a multi-specialty medical group practice, a research and medical education enterprise, and a foundation.

The health system currently employs twenty-one hundred nurses.

Summa is supportive of the Senate Bill 3 Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) proposal because it would provide our health system with an ability to access qualified nurses from other states to help provide clinical care to our northeast Ohio patients and members. As an integrated delivery system, we could leverage non-Ohio nursing talent to support our clinical priorities across hospital, ambulatory, and post-acute settings. Nursing resources could also help advance our insurance entity's care management priorities.

Activating a NLC model now would also help us better plan and respond to caregiving needs during pandemic and normal times.

The NLC model would also benefit Ohio nurses because it would give them an ability to pursue employment and/or contract opportunities in other states at times when their local (home state) systems experience low patient volume and/or utilization periods.

Summa Health appreciate Senator Roegner's efforts to work with hospitals, nursing association and board leadership, and other interested parties to design an interstate compact model that would strengthen the state's healthcare workforce and most importantly support accessible and safe patient care.

Summa Health supports the committee advancing Senate Bill 3 through the legislative process.