

February 3, 2021

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 5.

UC Health is an integrated academic health system serving the Greater Cincinnati region. In partnership with the University of Cincinnati, UC Health combines clinical expertise and compassion with research and teaching – offering patients options for even the most complex situations.

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact included in SB 5 would allow for physical therapists licensed in one state to practice in another member state. UC Health serves many patients in the tristate area, including Indiana and Kentucky. Of the 29 states currently enrolled in the physical therapy licensure compact, Kentucky is a current member. Indiana has recently introduced legislation similar to SB 5 to also join the compact. By Ohio joining the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, UC Health clinicians could serve Kentucky patients through the means of telehealth by removing the administrative licensure barrier of practicing in the adjacent state. Ohio would also be in a great position to increase health care access to Indiana patients if this neighboring state chose to also enter the compact.

In addition to increasing health care access through SB 5, Ohio could improve patient care by attracting out-of-state talent to move to Ohio and practice physical therapy. During recent interviews conducted with potential physical therapists at UC Health, licensure requirements have been a large item of focus. If SB 5 were to be enacted, UC Health could hire qualified physical therapists from other states without the physical therapist needing to apply through Ohio's licensing requirements.

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact includes many safeguards to protect patients from physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who have negative comments on their licenses. For example, if there are any limitations on a clinician's license in their home state, that licensee cannot practice in any remote state until the home state lifts the limitation on the license and two years have passed since the adverse action against the licensee.

UC Health greatly appreciates Senator Roegner and Senator Blessing's leadership on this issue, and we strongly support Senate Bill 5.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5. Please contact me at any time if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Candace Sabers
Vice President, Government Relations