

# Universal Health Services, Inc.

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Representative Al Cutrona  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Cutrona and Members of the House Health Provider Services Committee:

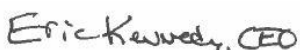
Please accept this letter of support for SB 81 (Romanchuk) Certain Nurses signing hospital documents in behavioral health and psychiatric facilities on behalf of UHS, a leading provider of hospital and healthcare services. UHS strives to deliver high-quality, compassionate patient care to those in need. Our dedicated and talented staff treat patients with dignity and respect throughout our continuum of inpatient and outpatient services. UHS currently operates 5 behavioral health facilities in Ohio, we have 780 employees and 513 licensed beds.

In particular our 3 free standing psychiatric hospitals would benefit greatly by the enactment of SB 81, including Windsor Laurelwood in Willoughby; Belmont Pines Hospital in Youngstown; and Arrowhead Behavioral Health in Maumee.

SB 81 is a workforce initiative that will help our psych hospitals address the shortage of primary care physicians and psychiatrists, which has only accelerated due to the pandemic. As such, UHS is looking for cost-effective and safe solutions to help streamline processes to deliver care to our patients, who are struggling with very time sensitive issues when entering our facilities. Utilizing our nursing staff and physician assistants by providing them with the authority to sign certain documents, such as the ability to initiate the admissions process, and begin treatment as quickly as possible is a common sense solution to alleviate some of the current regulatory barriers to improve patient care. It is our understanding that this bill does not change current law with respect to collaboration or supervisory agreements with physicians.

On behalf of our facilities in Ohio, we respectfully request your support of SB 81 and we thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Eric Kennedy, CEO  
Belmont Pines



Norine Wasielweski, CEO  
Arrowhead



Douglas Kern, CEO  
Windsor Laurelwood