



FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON
SCHOOL OF NURSING

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

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Representative Scott Wiggam, Chairman
House State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Wiggam and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for House Bill 673 on behalf of the France Payne Bolton School of Nursing at the Case Western Reserve University. With roots in the 19th century, the School of Nursing has entered the 21st century as a globally recognized leader in nursing education and research. Students choose our accredited nursing programs in Ohio because we produce national and international leaders. Our nursing school is top-ranked and includes unique nursing curriculum and dedicated faculty. This, combined with our clinical partnerships, experiential learning and research opportunities, makes the School of Nursing second to none. Part of that commitment to our students is that we will be able to provide an educational experience that fully prepares them to enter the nursing profession. It is vital that in this health emergency, where nursing professionals are crucial to our ability to successfully serve the population, that our graduating students be given flexibility to finish the requirements needed to become a licensed nurse in the State of Ohio and House Bill 673 helps ensure that happens.

In immediate response to the current crisis, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 197 (Powell-Merrin), which removed the requirement for prospective nurses to pass the licensure exam and provided temporary licensure for those meeting all other requirements, for 90 days after the current emergency ends or December 1, 2020, whichever is earlier. House Bill 197 was passed in the first days of the pandemic, when we had no understanding how long we might be facing crisis conditions. As our knowledge has grown and we see many months of increased need ahead of us, we feel it is important to extend the fixed date portion of this temporary measure until July 1, 2021 to provide the field with flexibility and to ensure that you will not have to constantly come back into session to address this issue. The bill also states that the hours worked under the temporary license count toward clinical hours required to obtain a permanent license, as our understanding is the Ohio Board of Nursing has not indicated whether it will allow that on its own. It is very important that we recognize the hard work that our newly graduated students will be doing and the valuable on-the-job learning experience this work will be for them and not punish them by discounting all those hours logged. Ohio should welcome these newly graduated, battle-tested nurses to our ranks without overburdening them with requirements that we can adapt to fit this specific situation.

On behalf of the School of Nursing and our student, I would ask for your support of House Bill 673. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss how this legislation can benefit our students and the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CAROL M Musil". The signature is written in a cursive style with all caps for the first name and a mix of caps and lowercase for the last name.

Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA
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