



*BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE
OPPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 144*

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 144 (HB 144). My name is Kevin Shimp and I am the Director of Labor and Legal Affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

In our efforts to champion economic competitiveness and to defend against onerous government mandates on employment practices, the Ohio Chamber opposes HB 144.

Under HB 144, regulations would be put in place that dictate the employment practices of hospitals in our state by placing limitations on when a nurse can work overtime.

Ohio's hospitals play an integral role in communities across that state and are an important part of assuring that every Ohioan has access to world class healthcare. Presently in Ohio, there are 236 hospitals operated by 14 different health systems, and these hospitals served over 33.7 million patients in 2018.

Aside from delivering world class care to Ohioans and others, Ohio hospitals are some of our state's largest employers. According to data collected by the Ohio Hospital Association, hospitals in the state employ more than 255,000 individuals and pay more than \$18 billion in wages to their employees.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 144 because it proposes government mandates that interfere with the employment relationship between an employer and employee. Government mandates and regulations on any employment relationship is problematic and can hinder both employers and employees because they prevent companies and their employees from crafting tailored solutions that work best for all parties.

Specifically, this legislation adds another layer of regulation on the employment practices of hospitals who are already subjected to the requirement to create and implement government mandated staffing plans for their nurses.

The Ohio Chamber believes that hospitals should be free from burdensome government regulations or mandates on their employment practices that fail to consider what is practical or makes sense for each individual hospital. Likewise, we believe employment practices are best addressed in labor negotiations between individual companies and their workers instead of using a one size fits all legislative mandate.

In closing, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 144 because the bill creates government mandates that dictate the relationship between employers and employees and represents legislation that seeks to over-regulate Ohio employers which can hinder the state's economic competitiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.