

HB 59 Interested Party Testimony
Presented by Dr. E. Ann Crickard, D.O.
House General Government Committee
Chair Sharon Ray
November 13, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as an interested party on HB 59, occupational licensure review legislation. My name is Dr. Ann Crickard, and I am a practicing physician in pediatrics here in Ohio.

I am testifying today in support of updating the professional title of “Physician Assistant” to “Physician Associate.” As a physician who works closely with PAs every day, I believe this change is both reasonable and beneficial, for our patients and for the healthcare team as a whole.

This title change proposal does not change PA scope of practice, supervision requirements, or physician oversight in any way. It simply updates an outdated title that no longer reflects how these highly trained professionals practice medicine today.

From my perspective, the title “*Physician Associate*” improves clarity for patients. Many patients assume that a “physician assistant” is a student or aide, which can lead to confusion or mistrust. The word *associate* better conveys that PAs are licensed, master’s-trained medical professionals who work closely with physicians to deliver coordinated care.

Importantly, this change poses no threat to physicians or physician authority. For 60 years, PAs have been, and will continue to be, valued members of our healthcare teams. Clearer titles only strengthen the trust and communication that good medicine depends on.

For these reasons, I urge your support of Physician Associate title update as a commonsense modernization that benefits both patients and providers across Ohio.

Once again, Chair Ray and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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