

(Insert Date), 2007

The Honorable (First name Last Name)

Ohio House of Representatives

77 S. High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Representative (insert last name):

I am writing to support House Bill 253 sponsored by State Representative Scott Oelslager to enhance the advanced practice nurse's (APN's) ability to prescribe schedule II controlled substances.

As you may know, existing Ohio law allows advanced practice nurses who have obtained a certificate to prescribe, to prescribe schedule II-V drugs. However, APN's may only prescribe schedule II controlled substances to terminally ill patients for no longer than 24 hours and only when the collaborating physician has first initiated the medication. HB 253 would remove those restrictions and allow the Ohio Board of Nursing Committee of Prescriptive Governance to determine which schedule II controlled substances a qualifying APN may prescribe and under what circumstances an APN may prescribe those medications. This multi-disciplinary body is comprised of physicians, pharmacists and APN's and currently makes those determinations pertaining to all other scheduled and legend drugs.

Advanced practice nurses function in a variety of settings from inpatient to outpatient primary care settings, to the acute care hospital and ICU, to the home, hospice and extended care facility. Many of the conditions commonly treated by APNs require management of moderate to severe pain. Schedule II drugs are important part of the treatment regime for these patients.

DRAFT YOUR OWN EXAMPLES OF HOW APN PRESCRIBING OF SCHEDULE II

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR PRACTICE.

We very much appreciate your consideration of HB 253 and hope that you will support this important legislation. Please feel free to contact me directly, should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to HB 253.

Sincerely,

(insert your name and phone number)