

PRESS RELEASE

From Senator Sue Morano

13th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Morano's Comprehensive Nursing Education Bill Passes Senate

Senate Bill 89 takes steps to tackle nurse educator shortage

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Senate unanimously passed today Senator Sue Morano's Comprehensive Nursing Education Bill (SB 89). Senator Morano (D-Lorain) has been working with the Ohio General Assembly and numerous Nursing advocacy groups for more than a year to gain support for this important legislation.

"I have worked tirelessly with Nursing organizations from across the state, the General Assembly, and my staff to get the Comprehensive Nursing Education Bill to where it is today," said Senator Sue Morano, a Registered Nurse who works 3 nights a month at Community Health Partners Hospital in Lorain. "Ohio has taken a big step today toward solving the Nursing and Nurse Educator shortage."

Nationally, 65% of nursing schools cited faculty shortages as the reason for not accepting qualified applicants. In the 2005-2006 academic year, 88,000 qualified applicants were turned away from the nation's nursing schools due to faculty shortages.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that by the year 2020 there will be a 36% shortfall in Registered Nurses (RNs) nationwide. In the State of Ohio alone, 40% of practicing nurses are expected to leave the field within the next 10 years, due in large part to retirement.

“My hope is that this legislation serves as a model for other states, so that the nation can get back on track with job creation and the ability to provide quality health care to all that need it,” stated Senator Morano.

Senate Bill 89 incorporates recommendations of the General Assembly's Nursing Education Study Committee chaired by Senator Morano. The committee made the following recommendations contained in Senate Bill 89:

- **SB 89 will restructure the allocation of Nurse Education Assistance Program (NEALP):** The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents would be given the authority to reallocate 25% of NEALP. The money would be directed to nursing programs with the most need for assistance.
- **SB 89 will enable the Ohio Skills Bank to serve as mediator between universities and hospitals:** The Ohio Skills Bank, administered by the Board of Regents, would collaborate with educational programs to meet the needs for nursing education in every region of the state. The goal of this provision is to enable nurses to serve as mentors for nursing students, while also allowing hospitals and nursing programs to work together in coming up with solutions to the nursing educator shortage.
- **SB 89 will adjust requirements for Advance Practice Nurses (APN):** APNs that have had prescriptive authority in another state for at least one continuous year within the last three years would not be required to repeat their APN training under an Ohio physician. These APNs would need to be able to provide the appropriate documentation to the Ohio Board of Nursing in order to get their license.

[To view Senator Morano's floor speech on Senate Bill 89, click here](#)

(The Ohio Channel)