The Truth About:
Ohio's Nursing Credential Gap

RNs are One of the Fastest Growing Occupations
Registered nurses (RN) are the **third largest growing occupation** in the United States, projected from 2016-2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. RNs are also one of the highest paying growing occupations, with a 2017 median salary of $70,000. In addition to a higher median salary, it has the **lowest probability of being automated** (0.9 percent) out of the top five growing occupations from 2016-2026.

Registered Nurse Demand Exceeds Supply
**Current and Projected Shortage of RNs in NE Ohio**

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Statewide Credential Gap; Regional RN Shortages
The National Academy of Sciences issued a recommendation that 80 percent of the nursing workforce have a baccalaureate degree by 2020. Ohio's percentage is only 35 percent. By 2020, the shortage of registered nurses in Northeast Ohio is expected to reach 2,850 RNs, more than three times the shortage of 820 RNs in 2017. Ohio is facing the dual issues of a credential gap and regional RN labor shortages that need to be addressed.

Balancing the Male-to-Female Ratio
In Ohio, **for every one male nurse there are eleven female nurses**. While there is a gender imbalance in the profession, the male labor force participation rate of prime-aged males (25-54) has fallen from 97 percent in 1965 to 88 percent in 2017. This suggests that targeting recruitment efforts to prime-aged males not currently in the labor force may be beneficial as part of a larger strategy to address regional nursing shortages.