



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
Sub-House Bill 171
April 10, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Sub-House Bill 171, a bill that not only provides for the safety of the public, but also helps protect the paramedics and EMTs that serve us. Currently, there is no law in the State of Ohio that provides protections for private ambulance drivers in terms of the number of hours that they are required to work. Some of these drivers are required to work upwards of 52 hours without rest and still perform the duties of the job. This is not safe for the paramedics, individuals being transported, or anyone sharing the road with individuals who have been made to work for over two days without rest. Since 2013, there have been over 2,000 ambulance crashes in Ohio with over 400 people injured, and it is not hard to imagine that many of these stem from the fatigue of being over-worked.

Under Sub-HB 171, paramedics for private ambulance companies will no longer be required to work a shift longer than twelve hours and work with less than a ten-hour rest period between shifts. This bill also provides protections for individuals who feel that they are unable to safely complete an emergency run due to fatigue in the last hour of their shift.

Sub-HB 171 also addresses staffing requirements for private ambulance companies. The bill will require that an ambulance operated by a private organization must be staffed by a licensed EMT or paramedic and a driver who is at the very least CPR certified and is able to assist with patient movement. The presence of two individuals in an ambulance will allow the individuals to monitor each other for signs of fatigue, and will also ensure that a situation does not arise where a patient is in need of care during transport and is unable to receive it because the paramedic must also serve as the driver.

As mentioned earlier, this bill not only protects our paramedics and EMTs from being overworked, but also will lead to improved care and increased safety of our roadways. Chairman Young and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee, I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.