



Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 426.

This bill would help to alleviate the complicated and time consuming practices that hospice providers currently undergo to contract out emergent vehicles for the transportation of their non-emergent patients that have to travel in a prone position.

Currently, the majority of hospice patients need to be transported in a supine position due to a variety of physical or disease related reasons. To transport these patients hospices have to use ambulances to transport these non-emergent patients to things such as family events, and because they are non-emergent they often have difficulty getting transportation. When they do it can take hours and cost many hundreds of dollars. This also causes a burden on unnecessary allocation of emergent resources such as ambulances.

This bill, extends the ability to transport patients in a Hospice Transportation Vehicle. These vehicles will be just a safe for patients with oversight and rule development falling under the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

This is not a new concept, terminal patients who must travel in a reclining position, there are restrictions on the type of vehicle that can be used to transport these individuals. To prevent a disruption in the normal flow of emergent vehicles and to ensure adequate coverage for those services, non-emergent transportation is commonly forced to the bottom of the priority list. These restrictions delay hospital discharges, timely access to end of life services, and increase the stress and emotional toll to the patient and family. Having a specified transport vehicle that

is tailored to the needs of non-emergent hospice patients will not only improve the comfort and quality of life of these patients, but also the efficiency and productivity of pre-existing limited emergent resources.

This bill will both maximize patient care and improve the appropriate allocation of emergent resources to those in need, through the expansion of options in the ambulance licensure requirements in order to provide non-emergent transportation to hospice patients. I

respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.