

Testimony before the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee: Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Tom Allenstein and I am the President and CEO of MedFlight of Ohio. MedFlight is a critical care air and ground ambulance provider headquartered in Columbus and serves approximately two thirds of the state of Ohio. We are equally owned by OhioHealth and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and annually provide over 3,000 helicopter and 2,000 ground critical care transportations to Ohio residents.

MedFlight is called to provide emergency air and ground ambulance services to patients with many different pay sources. Many patients transported from scenes such as MVA, fires, and trauma accidents, may not even be identified by name at the time of the transport, much less is any payor information available. MedFlight transports the patient regardless of their ability to pay or provide a pay source for the services. We match any uncompensated care awarded from the hospitals and offer our own program to assist those living above the poverty level and those unable to qualify for Medicaid.

For this reason, it is even more important that MedFlight is compensated at a fair market value of their services for the patients that do not have some sort of coverage or pay source.

Whether it be a traumatic life threatening event or ensuring that a loved one's elderly parents are appropriately transferred to a medical provider, the residents of Ohio deserve to have an investment made on their behalf to ensure that appropriate and quality medical transportation services are provided in a timely manner.

MedFlight also strongly supports the Governor's budget provision that provides a 15% increase for ambulance services. We thank the Governor, his administration, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid for their recognition and support on this funding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.