

May 5, 2017

Chairperson Kristina Roegner, Vice Chairman Scott Lipps, Ranking Member David Leland and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee:

Thank you for considering my testimony regarding House Bill 79. My name is Brent Abdelnour. I am a 14 year veteran of the Fire Service in the Cincinnati area. I have been a Paramedic for almost 13 of those years. I am also trained in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and certified by The Department of Health and Human Services in Counter Narcotics/Counter Terrorism Operational Medical Support (CONTOMS). I am a Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic for Liberty Township Fire Department and Tactical Medic for the Butler County S.W.A.T. Team.

Military and tactical operations over several decades has supplied the medical community with an abundance of data that inevitably leads to the same conclusion: having medically trained personnel nearby saves lives. Lives of both our Operators and civilians. With that said, having Tactical Medics working in conjunction with operators has become the natural progression of S.W.A.T. and other strategic teams. Specialized training and dedication are required to become proficient in this unique environment. We have earned the trust of the Law Enforcement agencies that we support by attending training, passing both physical and mental testing and performing on actual operations. Among the many trainings we attend are firearms safety and proficiency.

As we operate now and due to our inability to carry firearms, the Tactical Medic requires force protection during operations creating undue stress on man power already in short supply. My peers and I support HB 79 in that it allows us to both protect ourselves in a potentially hostile environment while at the same time allowing Law Enforcement Operators to focus on the mission. Make no mistake, arming a Tactical Medic is purely a defensive measure. Our mission remains to be the medical advocate for our team. Thank you for your support.

Brent Abdelnour, Firefighter/Paramedic

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