

**Ohio Senate**

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**Committees:**

Transportation, Commerce and Labor, Vice Chair  
Energy & Natural Resources  
Finance  
Finance – Corrections Subcommittee  
Government Oversight and Reform  
Public Utilities  
Rules and Reference

**Tom Patton**

Majority Floor Leader  
24th District

**Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 248  
Senate Medicaid Committee  
February 10, 2016**

Honorable Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on Senate Bill 248. This legislation will increase the Medicaid payment rates for the following medical transportation services: Advanced life support services, Ambulette services, Basic life support services, and Emergency services. This legislation aims to increase the current rates for said services no less than 40%.

Ohio has one of the lowest reimbursement rates for medical transportation services and has not seen an industry rate increase in over a decade. Ohio's current rates result in losses of \$35 to over \$300 per trip. Losses for both emergency and rural transports are even greater. The Medicaid reimbursement rate in Ohio for Ambulette services averages \$27.74, while the industry's average cost is \$80.60. This results in an average loss of nearly \$60 per trip.

Medicaid trips make up roughly 30% of these companies' volume. With a net loss of nearly \$60 per Medicaid trip, this has become an unsustainable business model and without an increase in ten years, these companies are failing fast. Their resulting loss is costing Ohioans jobs, and taxpayers resources for medical transport. Several companies, including companies from my district, have begun to make serious changes and layoffs.

At the discretion of the Chairman, you will be able to hear personal testimony from several constituents of mine who are fighting to keep their businesses afloat in this industry. With 56 business members in the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transport Association--on average initiating 32,000 trips a year--it's easy to see how many Ohioans are affected by this.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions.