



State of Ohio
Senate Medicaid Committee
Public Hearing
Ambulance Medicaid Increase
Written Testimony
April 18, 2016

Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chairwoman Manning, Ranking member Cafaro and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on the need to increase Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance services as they are currently dangerously low. My name is Brian Williams and I work for American Medical Response Ohio as our Operations Manager.

Ohio's Medicaid reimbursements for ambulance transports are significantly lower than Medicaid rates in all surrounding states, with the exception of Kentucky, and well below the national average. Ohio's rates results in losses ranging from \$35 to \$300 per trip depending on the level of service and mileage of the transport. Losses for both emergency and rural transports are even greater.

On average, the Federal Government reimburses ambulance providers for Medicare services **below** the cost of providing such services. In fact the Government Accounting Office (GAO) has conducted two separate cost study's validating the fact that ambulance providers nationwide are reimbursed under cost. Medicaid rates are **significantly lower** than those reimbursed through Medicare.

The rates again are dangerously low, and unsustainable for providers. Low reimbursement for Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) transports without increases endangers timely response, levels of care provided and overall quality of care for all Ohioans. For example a survey done statewide recently indicated that ambulance transports were costing 200% over the Medicaid reimbursements.

The Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association as well as American Medical Response is seeking an across the board increase. Without a rate increase, an extremely vulnerable population will be put further under duress and their care will continue to diminish as providers continue to be burdened by under cost reimbursements are forced to make difficult service related decisions.

Respectfully Submitted:

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