MEDSTAR
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Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Cafaro and members of th Senate Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the state of the Ohio ambulance and medical transportation industry. My name is Joe Robinson and I am the Owner/President of Med Star EMS.

Ohio's Medicaid reimbursements for ambulance transport are significantly lower than Medicaid rates in all the surrounding states, except Kentucky, and well below the national averages. Ohio's rates result in losses of $35 to over $300 per trip, as reported by a statewide industry survey. Losses for both emergency and rural transports are even greater.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has verified in two (2) separate reports that the Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance transport is below cost; further validating the assertion that Ohio's Medicaid rates for ambulance transport are dangerously low and unsustainable for providers. Low reimbursement for BLS-ALS and MICU transport (mandate a nurse on board without additional Ohio Medicaid reimbursement) endangers timely arrival and quality of care for Ohioans. In the statewide industry survey, wheelchair van (ambulette) transports were reported as costing 200% over Medicaid reimbursements, a loss of nearly $60 per transport.

The Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transpiration Association (OAMTA) is seeking an across the board rate increase, which I support. Without a rate increase, an extremely vulnerable population will be put under further duress as their care will continue to suffer while additional ambulance and transportation facilities shut their doors.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph W. Robinson, President

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