

Senate Bill 218 Testimony  
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee  
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 218. My name is Connor Orban and I currently serve as the President of Scenic View Transportation, Inc, the largest ambulette provider in Stark County. We currently operate 24 vans, have 35 employees and perform about 120 trips per day. A significant part of our work is for the Stark County Dept of Job and Family Services. We have been in business for 12 years and have distinguished ourselves as a high quality transportation provider. We insist upon running a business that is fully compliant with regulatory requirements and in treating every customer as if they were family. We know from personal experience how important this is and have seen the results from our customers requesting to ride with us.

Our reason for testifying today is to share our opinion about Senate Bill 218 and more generally, about the non-compliance we see every day. Senate Bill 218, as it is currently written will discriminate against the best Medicaid transportation providers mainly because it only requires a surety bond for those Medicaid transportation companies providing ambulette services. For those of you that may not be familiar with our business, ambulette service is transporting customers in a wheelchair in a modified van capable of loading, securing and transporting the customer in a wheelchair. Being an ambulette provider requires very specific licensing, training, audit and driver screening requirements. Ambulette service represents about 30% of the trips we perform. The remaining trips are for ambulatory customers, those individuals who are not transported in wheelchairs or those capable of walking on their own. It is our belief from every day observation, that the worst offenders are those Medicaid transportation companies that only perform services for ambulatory customers, thus they are not licensed Ambulette companies. These non-wheelchair companies work for the same payors, such as the County JFS, United Healthcare, Caresource, and others. Senate Bill 218, in its current form, will exempt these Medicaid service providers from the surety bond requirements, which we believe is unfair and anti-competitive to those of us which also provide ambulette services.

We now ask that SB 218 be amended to include all Medicaid funded transportation companies, including those not providing ambulette services. We support the purpose of SB 218 and understand the need for additional safeguards against fraud and non-compliance in our industry.

We would like to see SB 218 expanded, so that all Medicaid funded transportation companies fall within the jurisdiction of The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services and be required to follow the same regulatory requirements. In its current condition, these non-ambulette transportation companies are exempt from many of the safeguards protecting Medicaid customers. These companies are not subject to annual audits and vehicle inspections from The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services, are not required to train drivers through the DRIVE training program administered by the Ohio Dept of Aging and other costly, yet beneficial certifications.

In summary, we ask that SB 218 be amended such that all Medicaid funded transportation companies be subjected to fair and equal licensing, training and audit requirements. We believe this will help to establish fair competition between providers and further reduce some of the abuse we see every day in our industry. Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

## Medicaid Transportation Licensing Requirements

ITEM	Ambulette	Non-Ambulette
1 FBI Background Check - Annually	Yes	No
2 Driver disqualification for prior offenses	Yes	No
3 DRIVE Training - Area Agency on Aging	Yes	No
4 Annual Vehicle Inspection	Yes	No
5 High Mileage Vehicles inspected every 25,000 miles	Yes	No
6 Drug and Alcohol	Yes	No
7 Defensive Driving Course	Yes	No
8 First Aid Certification	Yes	No
9 CPR Certification	Yes	No
10 Comprehensive Physical	Yes	No
11 Identification on vehicles	Yes	No
12 Drivers wearing ID Badges	Yes	No
13 Audited/Vehicle Inspection every year by OH Dept of EMS	Yes	No
14 Vehicles stocked with First Aid/Oxygen Tank securement	Yes	No
15 Vehicle stocked with Biohazard Kit/Hand Sanitizer	Yes	No
16 Vehicle stocked with Rubber gloves/CPR Mask/Gown/Blanket	Yes	No
17 Drivers not permitted to bring family members in the vehicle	Yes	No
18 Billing for and using subcontractors	No	Yes