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Chairman Kevin Bacon, Vice Chair Matt Dolan, Ranking Minority Member Cecil Thomas and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 79.

I am a 16 year veteran Lieutenant Firefighter/ Paramedic for Colerain Township Fire and EMS. I am certified in (TCCC) Tactical Combat Casualty Care and (TEMS) Tactical Emergency Medical Support. I am a Fire Instructor, (EMS) Emergency Medical Services and TCCC instructor. I am certified in Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response through (NCBRT) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training. I am the TacMed coordinator for our joint operations police and fire, active shooter response team for Colerain Township. I am a (QRT) Quick Response Team coordinator for Colerain Fire & EMS. The QRT pair a law enforcement officer and a tactical paramedic in a police cruiser for response to the most serious details when a medic unit must stage and medical care needs provided without delay. The QRT is also responsible for the heroin follow up program. I am a 6 year veteran of Hamilton County Police Association SWAT and am the assistant team leader for the medical team.

The medical treatment provided by TEMS professionals is performed in the austere environment. We operate in the same locations and circumstances as the tactical law enforcement members of our SWAT team. We are expected to pass all the same background checks, physical fitness testing, psychological testing, and firearms proficiencies as our law enforcement counterparts. We fulfill our duty without the ability to protect ourselves. Our team must compensate and designate other officers to provide protection for us. This puts undo strain on manpower and hurts the effectiveness of the team.

I am in full support of HB 79. To be very clear, I am advocating only to be able to protect myself, fellow SWAT team members, law enforcement officers and any innocent bystanders in need. Our code of ethics is to "Do No Harm". With this being said, we would all like the best opportunity possible to go home to our families at the end of duty.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 79. Should you need any additional information, please contact me anytime.

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