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**HB 444 – Township Omnibus Bill**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**December 8, 2020**  
**Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Tom Shay, and I am the Fiscal Officer with Braceville Township in Trumbull County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 444, which seeks to modify and revise Township Laws in the State of Ohio. Particularly, I would like to address ORC 4765.43, the Ohio ambulance staffing statute.

Braceville Township utilizes volunteers to staff our ambulance, which provides ambulance service to our Township of 2,800 resident covering 25 square miles in a mixed-use community of Trumbull County. While our volunteer fire department used to have a waiting list for joining the force, numbers of interested volunteers in my community, and other neighboring communities, have declined over the years.

Currently, our department has 15 volunteers and 8 trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or Paramedic (Medic). Having so few personnel to provide 24/7 coverage to respond our call volume (440 calls so far for 2020) has required us to look at alternatives to train our other personnel to assist. One way is to train our volunteers as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). The implementation of EMR trained personnel in our department has complemented our volunteers who have EMT or Medic training.

The purpose of my testimony is to encourage you to review ORC 4765.43, which requires that an ambulance to be staffed by an EMT or Medic while traveling to the scene of an emergency, but does not allow the inverse of an EMR to meet a EMT or Medic at a scene by driving the ambulance from the station to the emergency scene. Allowing an EMR to drive an ambulance from the station to the emergency scene to meet higher-level trained personnel would decrease the time it would take to respond to calls where time is critical.

I believe that HB 444 is good for Ohio. It seeks to modify and revise sections of the statues to make township life better for the residents in which I serve and improves township life in all Ohio's Townships. I would like to thank Representatives Baldrige and Abrams for addressing these issues. Thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Most Respectfully,

Tom Shay  
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