



April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ohio House  
Criminal Justice Committee  
HB 287  
Chairperson LaRe

Chairperson LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

I would first like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 408 and would like to thank Representatives Young and all of H.B. 408's cosponsors for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

As President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), I want to offer **OPRA's support for H.B. 408**. OPRA is a state-wide trade association representing nearly 200 private organizations who provide Medicaid funded long-term services and supports to over 32,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Nearly all of our members provide some form of transportation services to the Ohioans they support to get to places like work, volunteer and recreational opportunities, and medical appointments.

Most OPRA members have their own fleet of vehicles that include sedans, mini-vans, 12- and 15-passenger vans, and mini-buses. Fleets range in size, from 2 or 3 vehicles to 100 depending on the size of an organization. These vehicles are often modified to be accessible for people who use wheel-chairs and other mobility aids so they cannot always be substituted with other vehicles.

Due to this reliance on large, modified fleet vehicles, our members are especially susceptible to the theft of catalytic converters. Many OPRA members across all parts of the state have reported catalytic converter thefts in both fleet and personal staff vehicles. These thefts have cost providers with increased insurance premiums, administrative time in procuring repairs, and has disrupted service delivery. A few OPRA Members submitted written testimony and explained the impact these thefts have had on their service delivery. Most importantly, every time one of these converters is stolen, Ohioans with disabilities are denied opportunities to access their communities or receive necessary medical services. In a system where transportation is always a challenge, limiting this concern is necessary.

We believe this bill will help decrease the number of catalytic converters stolen from OPRA Members and will help ensure Ohioans with I/DD can get to where they need to go. OPRA looks forward to collaborating with our Members, system peers, and Legislative partners to work toward successful implementation of the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for accepting our testimony. For additional questions, I can be reached at [pmoore@opra.org](mailto:pmoore@opra.org) or 614-224-6772.

Peter Moore  
President and CEO  
Ohio Provider Resource Association