



May 23, 2022

Sub. H.B. 28

Eileen Scarrett-Dudgeon, President
Courtesy Ambulance, Inc.
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I am opposed to this legislation for several reason that I would like to state for the record.

Ohio's original licensing board started in about 1984, the purpose was to regulate and oversee the Ambulance industry to protect patients and insure a high standard of care. My mother, Lois Griggs was an integral part of the development. She developed this idea and after countless hours of meetings with government officials and many years of hard work she was able to gain the support of the industry and the funeral directors that were running patient transportation services at the time. Everyone agreed that it was important for the regulation to exist.

The resulting changes made to vehicles, equipment, supplies and training brought the industry to the forefront. Patient transportation went from "load and go" to a mechanism of pre-hospital care that has saved countless lives. I am the second generation running the family founded Ambulance company that has just entered its 51st year of operation.

We strongly oppose the legislation to allow stretcher vans in the State of Ohio. Countless States have already rejected this type of legislation. Additionally, to allow any organization or facility to operate a patient care/transport division outside of the regulation of the Ohio Department of Public Safety could be catastrophic for patients.

I have included just one section of the inspection checklist provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. This should demonstrate the great lengths taken to ensure patient safety and even the safety of the public. Vehicles that are not regulated, inspected and maintained pose a safety hazard to anyone sharing the roads with them.

As a licensed Ambulance provider we also provide maintenance and inspection reports for every piece of equipment up to and including cots and wheelchairs. Our staff are constantly receiving ongoing training, spot inspections, and continued education.

I would be more than happy to answer any additional questions regarding our operations and extend an invitation to see our facility first hand.

Sincerely,

Eileen Scarrett-Dudgeon, President