

November 16, 2021

The Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

**RE: House Bill 392- Authorize ambulance transport of a police dog injured in the line of duty
Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 392.

My name is Art Fowler Jr. and I am Chief of Police for the Wintersville Police Department. I've been a K-9 handler for the past 12 years and a certified EMT for the past 17 years.

After dealing with k-9 injuries throughout my career, this bill would be greatly beneficial to our canines in an emergency situation. We spend significant time and money training our police dogs, therefore it is critical to have accessible and quick transportation should an emergency situation occur on duty. These dogs are an invaluable asset to our department and community, and the services they provide are crucial to the success of our department's mission.

I am grateful to Representative Ferguson for introducing this legislation after a simple phone call and conversation about this important issue. It's great to know you can contact your elected officials from your hometown and important issues are brought here to the legislature.

I would like to respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 392. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.