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Senate Health Committee  
c/o Chairman Huffman's office

To the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on H.B. 138. What a lovely, succinct, and cogent piece of bipartisan legislation. H.B. 138 would shift scope of emergency medical services practice from the Revised Code to the rulemaking process and allow emergency medical services to honor a Do-Not-Resuscitate order signed by a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse.

I will begin by quoting Chief Steve Agenbroad from his proponent testimony on behalf the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association:

"For too long, there has been a troubling gap in Ohio law that needlessly contributed to the trauma experienced by our first responders; and to the family of loved ones caring for those that have arrived at the end of their life's journey."

I echo Chief Agenbroad's choice of the word trauma. H.B. 138 will indeed alleviate trauma by allowing emergency medical services personnel to honor a legally valid Ohio Do-Not-Resuscitate order.

At any one time, more than 10% of those hospitalized across OhioHealth's twelve hospitals have a Do-Not-Resuscitate order. Today the number is 593 and each one of those orders reflects a loving, emotional, difficult conversation that acknowledges the dignity of a person beyond one's medical diagnoses, the limits of medical care, and the reality of mortality. It is a duty to respect such a choice. And yet emergency medical services, today and for years now, are not able to lawfully follow such orders in the community; where it matters. H.B. 138 will close this gap in Ohio law thus supporting the autonomy of Ohioans.

Additionally, and to be clear, this legislation presents no issues regarding scope of medical practice. Ohio's Do-Not-Resuscitate statute has allowed orders to be signed by physician assistants and advance practice nurses for years now.



I fervently ask that you bring H.B. 138 up for a vote in this committee and, as has happened in House committee and chamber, choose for its unanimous passage. We on the frontlines of healthcare, as well as the seriously ill and their families, need you to. We need you to.

To the ever-better care of Ohioans,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zach Rossfeld".

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