

**Ohio Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Medical Services
Executive Director Rob Wagoner
Senate Health Committee
House Bill 138
October 20, 2021**

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Health Committee: my name is Rob Wagoner, Executive Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services with the Ohio Department of Public Safety. I am pleased to submit Proponent Testimony to you today on House Bill 138, a bill that would amend the scope of emergency medical services provided by emergency medical personnel.

This bill makes it clear that EMS certificate holders may follow the written protocols established by the physician medical director for each Emergency Medical Service Organization. This is standard practice in the field of emergency medicine, and the bill clearly establishes this practice within the EMS scope of practice. Thus, eliminating any notion that EMS certificate holders must wait for a verbal authorization before engaging in patient care. The bill also eliminates the conflict in law involving do not resuscitate orders (DNR) signed by a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse. The current EMS scope of practice does not permit EMS certificate holders to recognize DNRs signed by a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. The bill eliminates this conflict, providing clarity for EMS professionals when following a patient's directive for end-of-life care.

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony as a proponent on House Bill 138. I appreciate the opportunity, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me should any questions arise.