

**March 16, 2022**

**The Ohio Senate Transportation Committee**

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

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation 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 Police Officer for 25 years, K-9 handler for the past 12 years and a certified EMT for the past 17 years.

After seeing/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.

The closest 24 hour animal hospital in an emergency situation in my rural area would be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and that is an hour away. This bill would greatly benefit K-9's injured in the line of duty throughout the state, where the "Load and Go" is not a feasible option.

I am grateful to Representative Ferguson and Representative K. Miller for introducing this legislation.

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.