



April 18th, 2023

Ohio House
Criminal Justice Committee
HB 110
Chairperson Abrams

Chairperson Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

I would first like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 110 and would like to thank Representatives Young, Roemer, and their cosponsors for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

As President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), I offer **OPRA's support for H.B. 110**. OPRA is a state-wide trade association representing nearly 200 private organizations who provide Medicaid funded long-term services and supports to over 32,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Nearly all of our members provide some form of transportation services to get Ohioans with developmental disabilities to work, volunteer and recreational opportunities, and medical appointments. Transportation services are also vital to help families of loved ones with developmental disabilities stay in their own jobs or offer respite from caregiving during the day.

Most OPRA members have fleet of vehicles that range from sedans, mini-vans, 12- and 15-passenger vans, to mini-buses. Fleets range in size, from 2 or 3 vehicles to 100+ depending on organization size. These vehicles are often modified to be accessible for people who use wheel-chairs and other mobility aids. They cannot always be substituted with other vehicles and often come at an increased cost than non-modified vehicles. Due to this reliance on large, modified fleet vehicles, our members are especially susceptible to the theft of catalytic converters.

Over 40 OPRA Members shared how the thefts have impacted their organization in a recent survey:

- OPRA Members reported nearly 400 catalytic converter thefts over the last few years
- The number of catalytic converter thefts range from 1 to 100
- 14 OPRA members reported more than 10 catalytic converter thefts; all but one less than 25 thefts
- It cost \$800,000 in insurance claims, deductibles, and full private payment to replace the stolen catalytic converters
- Reporting Members spent over \$140,000 to implement additional security measures (cameras, fences, new lights, moving fleets to secured garages most common interventions) to protect their fleets from additional thefts

These thefts have cost providers through increased insurance premiums, staff time in procuring repairs and rearranging transportation routes, and has disrupted service delivery. As a system reliant on Medicaid dollars, these kinds of additional costs are not accounted for in Medicaid reimbursement rates. Members are forced to divert funding from front line staff so that the people they serve can

maintain access to vehicles needed for transportation services. A few OPRA Members also submitted their own testimony and explained the impact these thefts have had on their service delivery.

We believe this bill will help decrease the number of catalytic converters stolen from OPRA Members and will help ensure Ohioans with I/DD can get to where they need to go. OPRA looks forward to collaborating with our Members, system peers, and legislative partners to work toward successful implementation of the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for accepting our testimony. For additional questions, I can be reached at pmoore@opra.org or 614-224-6772.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Moore".

Peter Moore
President and CEO
Ohio Provider Resource Association