



The Ohio EMS Chiefs Association

February 28, 2023

Chair John and members of House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony in support of HB 52.

As you are aware HB 52 serves to reverse some unfavorable changes to EMS instructors and continuing education provided for in HB 509 during the 134th General Assembly. HB 509 eliminates the ability of Emergency Medical Services providers to obtain continuing education training through Approved Continuing Education sites and only permits training and education be obtained through Accredited Training and Continuing Education programs.

Ohio has 41,530 active EMS providers, of which, 18,933 are paramedics (https://www.ems.ohio.gov/static/links/ems_cert_total.pdf). Under HB 509 language continuing education will only be available through Accredited Training and Continuing Education programs. Currently, there are 93 accredited training programs, of which, only 38 are accredited at the paramedic level (<https://services.dps.ohio.gov/EMSSchools/TrainingFacility/>). Meaning, 18,933 paramedics will have access to 38 programs to obtain their continuing education. This creates extreme hardships for our already short-staffed and underfunded EMS agencies. Many will have to travel great distances and pay large amounts of overtime for their staff to obtain required training elsewhere. **Sixty (60) of Ohio's counties would not have access to an Accredited Training and Continuing Education program at the paramedic level under HB 509. Thirty-three (33) counties would not have access to an Accredited Training and Continuing Education program at any level under HB 509.**

Ohio has 5845 total EMS instructors, of which, 2160 are full EMS instructors, 3280 are Continuing Education (CE) instructors and 168 are Assistant EMS Instructors. Ohio has 93 accredited sites and 575 continuing education (CE) sites. HB 509 language eliminates 61% of our instructors and 86% of our EMS training sites.

Many of the approved continuing education sites that currently exist are public EMS and fire departments who take great pride in the development and personalization of training their members to the specific needs of their agency and community. Their communities have invested a great deal of time and financial support to building their education programs, some of which include state of the art simulation labs. Eliminating the ability to provide this type of training does not allow us to best serve our communities. Accredited training provides our new Paramedics and EMTs, but continuing education sites keep them working for us.



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The members of the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association support HB 52. We ask for your support of HB 52 and are happy to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Burgess", is positioned above the printed name.

Eric J. Burgess, MS, EMT-P, EMSI
President, Ohio EMS Chiefs Association