



February 28, 2023

Chair Marilyn John
State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
HB 52 Testimony

Chairwoman John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

The 134th General Assembly passed HB 509, a bill that intended to reduce administrative burden and streamline agency rules across the state. However, the enacted legislation prohibits Emergency Medical Services providers from obtaining continuing education training through Approved Continuing Education sites and only permits training and education to be obtained through Accredited Training and Continuing Education programs. This language eliminates Nationwide Children's Hospital's ability to provide free continuing education, leaving our community without the needed expertise and training in pediatric care.

Nationwide Children's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program provides leadership for EMS providers in 33 of the 88 counties in Ohio, making our pre-hospital catchment area the largest in the state. As we strive to create optimal health for every child in our community, we believe it is imperative that EMS have access to expert pediatric education, performance improvement opportunities, and liaisons to help forge a collaborative relationship aimed at improving outcomes for our children.

Nationwide Children's Hospital has been an approved continuing education site for 15 years and is committed to providing education to our EMS partners in central Ohio. Educating our partners and providing best practices is part of the mission of our hospital. We have provided this training to over 3,000 EMTs, 20 city departments, and 73 vehicles. Between 2019-2023, we provided the following free Pediatric EMS CE hours:

- 2019 164 hours
- 2020 132.5 hours
- 2021 195.5 hours
- 2022 194 hours
- 2023 8 hours YTD

The language in HB 509 would no longer allow us to offer these free Pediatric EMS CE hours. While we understand the intention of the bill and are in process to comply with the requirement to become an accredited site, we ask that you consider allowing more time for approved CE sites to move into compliance. The current deadlines do not allow time for navigating the logistics of becoming accredited through a third party such as CAPCE or the time to negotiate a formal agreement with a paramedic

school. There are also additional administrative resources and financial implications hospitals are going to have to submit for budgetary considerations to align with changes in HB 509.

Nationwide Children's Hospital is committed to providing this free pediatric continuing education. We ask that you consider allowing more time for implementation so we can continue to create the best health outcomes for kids across Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Ann Wurster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Ann Wurster MS, RN, TCRN, CPNP-PC
Trauma and Burn Program Manager
Nationwide Children's Hospital