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**House State and Local Government
Substitute House Bill 52 – Proponent Testimony
Fire Chief Joseph Kitchen
February 28, 2023**

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to testify in support of Substitute House Bill 52. My name is Chief Joseph Kitchen. I am the current President-Elect of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association and the Fire Chief of Bath Township located in Allen County.

Currently, Ohio's EMTs and paramedics have the ability to obtain CE's through approved or accredited CE programs. Last year, House Bill 509 changed this law by requiring that CE's be provided by an accredited program. Removing approved CE programs would create havoc in Ohio's EMS Services, especially in our rural communities that already have challenges finding individuals who want to serve on their departments.

We appreciate the sponsors of Substitute House Bill 52, Chair John and Representative Fowler Arthur, working quickly to correct this language before it is set to take effect on April 6th.

On behalf of the over 1,800 men and women in our association, we would like to thank you for handling this issue expeditiously. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.