

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and all members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. On behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) which represents over 1,600 emergency physicians across the State, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 52.

Ohio ACEP is aware of an issue with a provision passed at the end of 2022 as part of HB 509 that would cause significant barriers to EMS personnel receiving continuing education. Currently, EMS training programs must be accredited, and continuing education providers must be approved by the Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services Board. A change included in HB 509 would require training and CE programs to both be **accredited**. This would preclude hundreds of currently approved continuing education providers from offering their courses.

In speaking with lawmakers, it is clear this was not the intent of HB 509 and in fact the intent of the occupational review that HB 509 codified was to increase opportunities for employment and training, not limit those opportunities. This issue is of specific importance to our organization because many of our members serve as EMS Medical Directors and direct that pre-hospital care that EMS personnel provide to citizens. EMS Medical Directors are developing, offering and providing continuing education opportunities for EMS workers as a part of their role. The provision enacted as part of HB 509 would severely hinder those opportunities.

Ohio ACEP thanks Chair John and Representative Fowler Arthur for introducing this legislation so quickly and our organization looks forward to working towards swift passage and enactment to avoid the implementation of the provisions of HB 509.

Sincerely,

Dr. B. Bryan Graham
President, Ohio ACEP

President
B. Bryan Graham, DO, FACEP

Secretary
Joseph Tagliaferro, DO, FACEP

President-Elect
Dan C. Breece, DO, FACEP

Immediate Past President
Nicole A. Veitinger, DO, FACEP

Treasurer
Ryan Squier, MD, FACEP

Executive Director
Holly Dorr, MBA, CAE, CMP