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Committee Chair John

02/27/2023

Committee Vice Chair Dean

Ranking member Brennan

And

The State and local Government Committee for the House Representatives

I am providing my written testimony in support of H.B. 52 reversing the changes made for EMS education in H.B. 509.

The current language would decrease Ohio's EMS instructor pool by 3,440 instructors leaving only 2,140 EMS instructors statewide. These 3,440 experienced clinical instructors make EMS education readily available to train with the department's equipment as well as provide necessary training within the department's jurisdiction. Experienced educators in the field provide countless benefits to real world EMS education teaching through experience and clinical knowledge. In-house education helps reduce the cost of mileage, overtime staffing, and per diem reimbursement.

Currently there are 55 counties in the state of Ohio that do not have an Accredited training facility located in their area. If this language is not reversed EMS providers in these counties will be forced to seek training outside their response area possibly 100's of miles in any direction. The current language would put a large burden on accredited training facilities to have to provide continuing education as well documentation on top of their responsibilities with recruitment of new EMT's and Paramedics and the training and documentation for those types of education programs. Payment for EMS education would increase, making it a financial hardship on any departments operating budget. Online training would become the way of the future, lowering the education standard for Ohio EMS. Those individuals responding to your family would be trained in front of a computer screen rather than an experienced EMS clinicians that are experts in EMS subject matter. With that being said both continuing education and initial education programs both have their purpose in EMS but function differently when it comes to EMS education.

If these changes are not reversed it will not only make it more difficult for EMS providers to retain their certification, but it would also lower the standards for Ohio EMS as well as cause a financial burden on the local government and emergency service departments. I ask that you except this written testimony and please support the language change introduced in H.B. 52.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Buehner", written over a horizontal line.

Shaun Buehner, EMS Chief

*Colebrook Twp., Dorset Twp., Hartsgrove Twp., Lenox Twp., Morgan Twp., New Lyme Twp., Orwell Twp.,
Orwell Village, Roaming Shore Village, Rock Creek Village, Rome Twp., Cherry Valley Twp.*