



111 Madison St.  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Steve Huffman  
Chairman, Ohio Senate Health Committee  
1 Capitol Square, Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman,

**The Seneca County Commissioners are writing to you today to express our full support for language found in Amended Substitute House Bill 33, the state operating budget, authorizing a supplemental payment program for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Ohio. Specifically, the language passed by the Ohio House of Representatives would enact section 5164.96 of the Ohio Revised Code to require the Department of Medicaid to establish a supplemental payment program for ground emergency medical transportation (GEMT) services.** This language will be a tremendous benefit to our county EMS agency, similar agencies across the state, and the patients they serve.

As you know, many EMS agencies, including Seneca County EMS, face significant financial challenges due to low reimbursement rates and rising expenses. These challenges can make it difficult for agencies to maintain their operations and provide the level of care the residents of our community expect and deserve. The establishment of a supplemental payment program for eligible GEMT service providers will provide much-needed financial assistance from the federal government, allowing these agencies to continue providing high-quality care to our community.

We are committed to ensuring that our residents have access to timely and appropriate emergency medical care. Medicaid recipients rely on EMS agencies for these critical services and the additional Medicaid payments made accessible by this budget language will help these agencies cover their costs and continue to provide essential emergency care to our residents.

Therefore, we ask you to maintain this language in the Senate version of the state operating budget as you work through the legislative process. We are grateful for your consideration and attention to this very important matter for our county and communities throughout Ohio.

Sincerely,

**Anthony Paradiso**

**Tyler Shuff**

**Bill Frankart**

CC: The Honorable Matt Huffman, President of the Ohio Senate  
The Honorable Bill Reineke, State Senator, District 26  
The Honorable Terry Johnson, Vice Chair, Ohio Senate Health Committee  
The Honorable Nickie Antonio, Ranking Member, Ohio Senate Health Committee  
The Honorable Gary Click, State Representative, District 88  
Ohio EMS Chiefs Association