



**Tim Schaffer**  
State Senator  
20th District

**Ohio Senate**  
Senate Building  
Room 137, First Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-8076  
sd20@ohiosenate.gov

**Committees:**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair  
Insurance  
Rules and Reference  
Transportation  
Ways and Means

**Senate Insurance Committee**  
**Senate Bill 106 — Sponsor Testimony**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 106.

Senate Bill 106 will remedy an oversight in workers compensation coverage, which was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine from Newark.

Exactly one year ago today, this constituent was working as a flight nurse when she suffered a body fluid exposure from a patient. At a local facility, she was treated and tested for bloodborne pathogens. However, she was then informed that she was not eligible for worker's compensation for this testing. According to the Revised Code, while nurses and physicians are required to be present on a rotorcraft or fixed wing air ambulance, they are not included with other first responders such as paramedics and EMTs in receiving workers' compensation for bloodborne pathogen testing.

Thankfully, my constituent was able to get this decision reversed upon appeal, since she was also licensed as a paramedic, and thus eligible for compensation. However, this coverage loophole remains in code; nurses and physicians are required to be present on a rotorcraft operating as an air medical service, but they are not eligible for workers' compensation coverage should they need testing for bloodborne pathogens due to their valuable work.

Senate Bill 106 simply expands the category of those eligible for workers' compensation coverage for testing for bloodborne pathogens after exposure. Under this legislation, this category would include registered nurses, physicians,

and any other person holding a current, valid certificate or license to practice a health care profession in this state, if they are staffing a rotorcraft or fixed wing air ambulance on behalf of a licensed air medical service organization in accordance with the Revised Code.

This brings registered nurses and physicians staffing an air ambulance into alignment with the workers' compensation coverage of other first responders who face unique challenges and dangers in their line of work.

This bill has the support of the Ohio Nurses Association, and according to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, any cost would be negligible, since they estimate situations like my constituent's will not occur frequently.

Thank you once again Chairman Hackett and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.