



## State Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur State Representative Marilyn John

Chair O'Brien, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, thank you for expediting the consideration of HB 52 to ensure our EMS personnel can receive training locally and continue to provide quality care in communities throughout Ohio.

During lame duck of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Senate amended HB 509 to consolidate the EMS instructor licenses and to only allow accredited (rather than accredited OR APPROVED) sites to offer the training. The second issue which arose is that EMS Assistant Instructors currently provide most of the local training and the changes last GA would now PROHIBIT them from providing approved training.

Unfortunately, an unanticipated consequence was the very limited access many rural communities have to accredited sites and credentialed trainers. The Ohio EMS Chiefs Association testified these changes will eliminate 61% of EMS instructors and 86% of Ohio's EMS training sites.

While the intent of HB 509 was to streamline licensure, the effect of the senate EMS amendments would be diminished training opportunities, especially amongst rural EMS providers. As you can imagine this presents a significant challenge to keeping our communities safe and well-served!

Eric Burgess with the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association, testified to the House State and Local Government Committee, that: "Ohio has 41,530 active EMS providers, of which, 18,933 are paramedics... Currently there are 93 accredited training programs, of which, only 38 are accredited at the paramedic level. Meaning 18,933 paramedics will have access to (only) 38 training programs (or roughly 500 people will need to access each site) to obtain their (required hours of) continuing education."

This means that in addition to the extreme hardships and burdensome costs of the new accrediting requirement, 60 of Ohio's counties would not have direct access to an accredited paramedic level training program and 33 counties would have no direct access to accredited training at all!

HB52 simply strives to reverse the unfavorable changes from 134\_HB509 in the following ways:

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- Allowing assistant EMS instructors to continue offering the required trainings for local EMS and paramedics
- Allow training to be provided at approved and accredited sites, not just accredited sites
- Reinstating the credential

We have included an emergency clause at the request of EMS groups to preempt the HB 509 changes going into effect on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This will ensure continuity and minimal disruption to EMT's and the services being provided in our communities.

In the House State and Local Government Committee, we had several proponents submit testimony, including the Ohio Fire Chief's Association, the Ohio EMS Chief's Association, UC Health, Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and a couple of local fire and ambulance districts. There were no opponents, and the House passed this bill unanimously.

Chair O'Brien, thank you again for the time to present HB 52. We are happy to answer any questions.