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**Senate Local Government  
Substitute House Bill 52 – Proponent Testimony  
Fire Chief Joseph Kitchen  
March 28, 2023**

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to testify in support of Substitute House Bill 52. My name is Chief Joseph Kitchen. I am the current President-Elect of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association and the Fire Chief of Bath Township located in Allen County.

Currently, Ohio's EMTs and paramedics have the ability to obtain CE's through approved or accredited CE programs. Last year, House Bill 509 changed this law by requiring that CE's be provided by an accredited program. Removing approved CE programs would create havoc in Ohio's EMS Services, especially in our rural communities that already have challenges finding individuals who want to serve on their departments.

We appreciate the sponsors of Substitute House Bill 52, Representative Fowler and Representative John, working quickly to correct this language before it is set to take effect on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the over 1,800 men and women in our association, we would like to thank you for handling this issue expeditiously. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.