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James Hoops
State Representative

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for allowing Representative White and I the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 311, legislation that would designate the third full week of May as “EMS week in Ohio”.

Across the state of Ohio, Emergency medical service providers—such as, Paramedics, EMTs, emergency dispatchers and first responders— work putting their lives on the line to provide lifesaving medical care to others. In recognition of their brave contribution to Ohio’s safety and well-being, dedicating the third week in May is the least we can do to honor them. They should be recognized side by side with Police forces and Firefighters, as their diligence and bravery in the line of duty is equally pivotal in ensuring safer communities. By designating the Third week in May as EMS week in Ohio, we will align our state with the recognition of the vitality of EMS providers and all the work they have done since their establishment in 1973.

Access to EMS personnel is especially necessary in more rural communities like my own district. EMS providers are often the only immediate source of emergency medical personnel, considering hospitals and medical centers can be a distance away. This Bill reaffirms the critical role emergency personnel play in safeguarding our communities. As we look ahead, I trust their continued contributions will remain on your mind in future discussions.

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee., thank you for allowing me to speak on this bill and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.