



Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
House Bill 138
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
May 11, 2021

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 138.

My name is Josanne Pagel and I am providing this testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (“OAPA”). I serve as OAPA’s Government Affairs Director. OAPA represents the physician assistant (“PA”) profession in Ohio. Serving over 3,000 licensed PAs and almost 1,000 PA students, OAPA seeks to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care, and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs within the organization.

The OAPA supports H.B. 138 because it permits Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to follow orders of do-not-resuscitate (DNR) that are given by physician assistants. PAs can issue DNR orders in other healthcare settings and other healthcare professionals follow a PA issued DNR order. When Ohio law expanded the PAs ability to make such orders, it did not update the code section to allow EMTs to follow a DNR issued by a PA. Given that other health professionals must follow a DNR issued by a PA, this oversight creates a gap in Ohio’s laws regarding both PAs and DNRs. H.B. 138 represents a common sense solution that remedies this oversight. This bill ensures congruency in Ohio law, therefore providing easy guidance for health professionals to understand and follow.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 138. We urge committee members to support the bill for passage.