



Ohio
Ambulance and
Medical Transportation
Association

SB21

**Ohio Senate Health Human Services and Medicaid Committee
February 3, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 21. I am Pete de la Porte and I am the President of the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association.

Our Association is a diverse organization of ambulance and medical transportation companies, not for profits, and public providers. Our members provide EMS to cities, villages and townships, certified Emergency Medical Dispatching for several of those communities and critical inter-facility transports to hospitals & nursing facilities, including mobile intensive care units, nonemergency ambulances, and wheelchair vans.

Quality ambulance and medical transportation is essential to the continuum of care and achieving quality healthcare outcomes. Particularly in rural areas there is a great risk of accessibility issues and the need for superior medical transport services to transport patients from community based hospital ERs to hospitals with higher levels of care for services not commonly provided by community hospitals. However, quality medical transportation services are essential to transporting critically ill and injured patients regardless of their geographic location.

This legislation would build on of the expertise of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services. The EMFTS board, including the Critical Care Subcommittee, is comprised of industry professionals representing diverse areas of the state and different provider types and is already responsible for establishing the training and certification standards of EMS personnel and the licensing of Ohio's medical transportation services. Reliance on the State Board of EMFTS to promulgate guidelines for stroke assessment, triage and transportation will ensure well informed protocols with flexibility and discretion based on the extensive experience of these well respected industry leaders.

Thank you to Senators Manning and Antonio for their efforts to improve stroke care in Ohio. Our Association greatly appreciates undertaking of sponsors and the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery and their diligent consultation with stakeholders throughout this process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.