

Hello,

My name is Dr Jordan Singer, and I am a practicing emergency medicine physician in Northeast Ohio. I am board certified and both emergency medicine and emergency medical services (EMS), as well as am a nationally registered paramedic. On top of practicing emergency medicine, I am a medical director for 10 EMS organizations. I have learned about two amendments that are set to be added to HB138, amendment AM_134_2081 & amendment AM_134_2082-1, that have passed the Ohio House and been referred to the Ohio Senate Health Committee. Based on my extensive experience in emergency medical care as well as prehospital medicine, I am concerned that these amendments will inadvertently harm more patients than will be benefited.

AM_134_2081 removes the current requirement of 2 EMT/Advance/Paramedic providers and would set the minimum staffing as 1 EMT/Advanced/Paramedic, plus 1 driver. EMS care is more than just an ambulance ride. Our EMS providers are trained to provide high quality medical care to treat patients who have a high likelihood of dying before they ever make it to the hospital. Many EMS patients experience complex medical or traumatic emergencies, requiring multiple experienced EMS personnel to properly assess and treat.

- Having only 1 EMS provider will cause delays in critical life-saving interventions.
- Having only 1 EMS provider will cause delays in identification of critical illnesses or injuries.
- Having only 1 EMS provider will place more stress on the ONE EMS provider, further worsening job satisfaction, recruitment, and retention.

It is clear to me that the purpose of this amendment is to attempt to increase the number of EMS units that can be available since the driver would not need any EMS training. While this may be true, this will significantly decrease the quality of the EMS care across the board. This is because in many situations, a patient requires treatment at the scene prior to moving the patient. The unfortunate consequence is that many patients with treatable conditions will decompensate in route to the hospital simply due to there not being enough EMS providers on scene. Quality is far more important than quantity.

Am_134-2082-1 would allow any licensed physician in Ohio to serve as an EMS medical director, even with no experience or training in Emergency Medicine or EMS. This erases the current standard, requiring Emergency Medicine training and practice, or completion of an EMS Medical Director course (Ohio ACEP's or NAEMSP's). It also prohibits agencies from taking any specific medical specialty training into account when selecting a medical director. I am very worried that patient safety will be compromised by inexperienced physicians not familiar with:

- Current emergency medical treatment protocols
- EMS provider skills, scope of practice, and competency evaluation
- Quality review of prehospital care

As someone who has practiced medicine both inside the hospital and outside the hospital, I understand that there are vast differences in how care can/should be

provided in the hospital vs in the EMS environment. More so, the vast majority of EMS care is emergent medical care. This is routine for the emergency physician, but not more any other specialty of medicine. The current standard simply requires completion of a EMS medical directors course for non EMS or EM physicians to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to provide quality teaching and direction to our EMS responders. Removing the current standard will increase the number of physicians available to be medical directors, but at the cost of completely disregarding quality. You will be having physicians with no emergency medical experience teaching skills and information to EMS providers. Quality EMS care comes from quality medical direction which requires a knowledge physician in that role. Once again, quality is more important than quantity.

I worry that the introduction of these amendments is a major step backwards in the delivery of safe and effective prehospital care in Ohio. I wanted to share my strong opposition to these two amendments and ensure that those voting on these amendments understand the broader implications of the decision.

Thank you,

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