



Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 28.

This bill would help to alleviate the complicated and time consuming practices that individuals who have to travel in a supine position are forced to endure.

Under current law, individuals who need to be transported in non-emergent situations in a supine position due to a variety of physical or disease related reasons have to be transported in ambulances. This travel can be to go see a doctor, going to a loved one's event or any other basic travel needs. This is often a costly endeavor, costing hundreds to thousands of dollars in addition to waiting hours for an ambulance to be available to provide transportation. This current situation also causes a burden on unnecessary allocation of emergent resources, by using ambulances in non-emergent situations.

This bill, extends the ability to transport these individuals to newly created stretcher van. These vehicles will be just as safe for patients with oversight and rule development falling under the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services. It is important to stress that these vans will only have the ability to transport for non-emergent situations.

This is not a new concept, individuals who must travel in a reclining position, have the option to use ambulettes instead of being forced to use ambulances for non-emergent situations.

Our current restrictions delay hospital discharges, timely access to end of life services, and increase the stress and emotional toll to patients and their families. Having a specified

transport vehicle that is tailored to the needs of non-emergent individuals will not only improve the comfort and quality of life of these patients, but also the efficiency and productivity of pre-existing limited emergent resources.

This bill will both maximize patient care and improve the appropriate allocation of emergent resources to those in need in order to provide non-emergent transportation to individuals who travel in a supine position. I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.