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OHIO HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 28 OPPONENT TESTIMONY
MAY 24, 2022

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 28.

My name is Darin Robinaugh and I am the President of Robinaugh EMS with stations in Bellefontaine and Marysville Ohio. We employ 10 paramedics, 3 AEMT's 8 EMTs, 4 dispatchers, 2 support staff and we service communities in Logan, Union and Champaign counties transporting more than 6000's people each year.

Robinaugh EMS is a second-generation family-owned business. I have been working in this industry for 38 years. I currently serve on the State Emergency Medical Fire and Transportation Services Board and on the State Trauma Committee.

HB28 creates a new level of service called stretcher van to transport individuals who must be transported in a prone position on a stretcher. Ambulances are the only vehicles that have a nationally recognized standard for securing the cots necessary to transport these patients, even though the bill directs that these vehicles would need to meet the appropriate standards.

When ambulance regulation first went into effect in the state was intended to address the lack of equipment standards that in the 1980s was resulting in patient injuries. This bill is a dangerous step backwards as it exempts hospice and nursing homes from having to abide by any licensure or regulation when it comes to transporting this category of patients. Further it is unclear why some businesses should be required to still pursue licensure while others are carved out.

Our staff are trained in the proper utilization of equipment for securing stretchers and on the appropriate care and mechanics of moving stretcher bound patients. An individual who is not appropriately trained can endanger patients should a cot tip during transports or in loading the patient into the vehicle. Patients who must be transported in a prone position almost always have other conditions that require monitoring and leave the individual vulnerable should staff not have appropriate training. Some patients also require oxygen which can only be administered by certified EMS providers.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony. Our industry has been uniquely impacted by the pandemic and this bill would have additional devastating impacts on care delivery and potentially endanger the patients to whom we have been licensed and entrusted to provide services. I would be happy to answer any questions you have and thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Darin Robinaugh-President, CEO
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