



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

My name is Julie Rose and I am a Director at Superior Ambulance of Ohio. Superior's footprint in Ohio includes stations in Dayton, Grove City, Mansfield, Shelby, and Toledo. We employ over 150 staff and serve communities and healthcare systems in over 8 counties in Ohio.

I have worked in the EMS and ambulance service industry in Ohio for over 35 years. I am the immediate past president of the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association and served on the state of Ohio's Emergency Medical Fire and Transportation Service Board through the Department of Public Safety for several terms as well as an Executive Committee member for the American Ambulance Association.

As a longtime advocate for our industry and the patients we serve, I want to speak with you about the negative consequences on patients that this legislation could have if put into law.

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. When ambulance regulation first went into effect in the state it was intended to address the lack of equipment standards that in the 1980s was resulting in numerous patient injuries. Since then, the standards for cot securement in ambulances have continued to evolve through government and industry collaboration identifying root cause of patient injuries when being transported on a stretcher/cot- all in the interest of improving the safety of the patient. 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. The regulations are there for a necessary purpose- the safety of Ohioans.

I served on the EMFTS board for the state when we proactively sought to address the concerns expressed by Representative Wiggam's constituents in the hospice industry. In response, the

department of public safety which regulates stretcher bound patient ie ambulance transports formed a sub committee and asked his constituent to engage with the experts from the private and public EMS, ambulance services and Fire to find a solution that would improve access and not compromise patient safety. The result of this endeavor were rule changes that provide reduced staffing and equipment requirements to transport stretcher patients in an ambulance.

These rules just passed the JCARR process in January and were codified in HB138 which passed this chamber in March. Hospice agencies and nursing facilities can license under the new nonemergency only rules providing reduced staffing and equipment to manage cost while not compromising patients' safety. The regulations should be given the time to go into effect and observe their impact to both safety and access to care before further legislation is even considered.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony in opposition to HB28. I would be happy to answer any questions you have and thank you for your time.