

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 Tom Allenstein and I am the CEO at MedCare Ambulance with offices headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. We employ over 60 paramedics, 150 EMTs, 50 dispatchers, 50 support staff and we service communities in 13 counties.

My background is as nurse and I have worked in the medical transportation industry for over 35 years. I wanted to express my profound concerns with House Bill 28 and the impact it will have on patient safety. It is my belief that anyone transporting patients in a vehicle needs to be able to provide proof that their personnel are properly trained to handle the stretcher and any other equipment. They also need to be able to provide proof that their vehicles meet specific safety standards that the state has developed. The way the current draft is written, it is possible that companies that provide these services would not necessarily be required to be licensed and therefore there would not be the oversight that I believe should be required. No matter who provides this service, the requirement to be licensed by the state of Ohio should be a part of the law.

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.



Thomas E. Allenstein
President / CEO
MedFlight of Ohio / MedCare Ambulance