SB16
Ohio Judiciary Committee
February 23, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 16. My name is Pete de la Porte and I am the President of the Ohio Ambulance and Medical Transportation Association.

Our Association is a diverse organization of ambulance and medical transportation providers including companies, not for profits, and publics. Our members provide EMS to cities, villages and townships, certified Emergency Medical Dispatching for several of those communities and emergent and non-emergent, but still critical, transports to hospitals & nursing facilities, including mobile intensive care units, nonemergency ambulances, and wheelchair vans.

Quality ambulance and medical transportation is essential to the continuum of care and achieving quality healthcare outcomes for the most vulnerable populations in the state. As the pandemic has thrown into sharp relief, our staff put their personal safety and health on the line day in and day out to protect their neighbors. Unfortunately, we have also seen recently the heightened dangers that face our paramedics and EMTs carrying out their duties as they have become the targets of harassment and physical attacks. This legislation has the potential to deter violence against Ohio's first responders and enhances protections and the ability to seek justice for first responders and their families.

Thank you to Senator Schaffer and his cosponsors, Senator Brenner and Cirino for their efforts to protect the safety of Ohio's first responders and their families. Our Association greatly appreciates undertaking of sponsor and his office staff and their diligent consultation with stakeholders throughout this process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.