HB 789 Proponent Testimony
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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide opposition testimony to House Bill 789.

My name is Negin Khosravi Ceraolo, MD, and I am an emergency medicine physician working at a Level 1 trauma center in Akron, and board member of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO). AMCNO represents more than 7,500 physicians and medical students in Northeast Ohio and has promoted the highest quality practice of medicine for more than 200 years.

I am here today in support of HB789, which requires hospital emergency departments and freestanding emergency departments to be supervised by physicians. Specifically, the bill requires a hospital or facility to ensure all the following during a hospital emergency department or freestanding emergency department's operating hours:

- A physician is on duty and physically present at the emergency department;
- A physician supervises the emergency department's medical and nursing staff and is immediately available to the staff;
- A physician coordinates the emergency department's provision of emergency care, including by being continuously involved in appropriate components of such care.

Emergency room physicians work with mid-level providers as highly trained members of the health care team, and we recognize how important it is in delivering care to all Ohioans. However, we believe strongly that while medicine is a team-based sport, care must be physician-led.

Physicians are essential in emergency departments because they provide medical leadership, rapid diagnosis, and the ability to manage the most complex and life-threatening conditions. In

my role as an attending physician, I am highly and specifically trained to lead the most complex and emergent cases that enter the emergency room.

Emergency departments see patients without a diagnosis or established care plan. Physicians must synthesize symptoms, history, examination findings, laboratory results, and imaging to determine the appropriate course of care. Physician oversight helps ensure that serious conditions are not missed, particularly when symptoms are vague or patients have multiple medical problems.

In an emergency, the ability to recognize a life-threatening condition, make critical decisions quickly, and initiate appropriate treatment can mean the difference between life and death. Maintaining strong physician involvement in emergency departments is therefore fundamental to patient safety, quality of care, and the readiness of our healthcare system.

On behalf of physicians across Northern Ohio, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation and urge you to vote in favor of the bill's passage.