



February 1, 2013

TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Lucie Drum, B.S.
Community Education Manager/Safe Kids Portland Metro Coordinator
American Medical Response

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2092, Injury Prevention Program Bill

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee, my name is Lucie Drum.

This letter is to encourage your support of HB 2092, which would require OHA's Public Health Division to establish and administer an Injury and Violence Prevention Program.

If passed, the bill would establish clear authority for the OHA to conduct population-based activities to reduce injury and violence, and conduct activities with partners throughout the state to reduce injuries due to accidents, suicide, homicide, and poisoning. Currently, OHA has regulatory authority to collect data on diseases. Extending that authority to cover injury is a logical next step as injury is one of the major causes of death to Oregonians.

Injury is the third leading cause of death in Oregon, behind only cancer and heart disease. It is also among the leading causes of hospitalization. It is typical to consider some causes of death – cancer, heart disease, stroke – as mainly affecting older Oregonians. However, everyone is affected by injury, regardless of age, sex, or race. When severe injuries cause permanent disability (especially in younger people) they may spend the rest of their lives being dependent on others and at significant economic costs. The good news is that injury is predictable and in many cases preventable.

The Injury and Violence Prevention Program is the primary resource in Oregon for state injury data. Staff provides epidemiologic expertise, data, and technical assistance to individuals, agencies, policy makers, and other partners outside the program. Surveillance data have been used to determine the burden of injury in Oregon; to assess the impact of policy implementation; provide analysis to prevention partners; to publish reports and research; evaluate injury outcomes and assess policy implications; provide information to the news media; and to guide policy initiatives.

IVPP collaborates with groups, organizations and agencies engaged in trauma and acute care, emergency medical services, chronic disease prevention, environmental health and the built environment, maternal and child health, school health, traffic safety, law enforcement, victim's services, and occupational safety to implement programs and policies aimed at reducing the burden of injury in Oregon.

Our organization has partnered with IVPP on the Safe Kids Portland Metro injury prevention coalition (dedicated to preventing childhood injuries), the Safe Kids Buckle Up Task Force (dedicated to providing child safety seat installation assistance and distribution of car seats to low income families), Stop at 4" (window falls prevention task force), Safe Kids Oregon Advisory Board (dedicated to providing statewide support of injury prevention activities), and more.

I hope that you will support this bill.

Regards,

Lucie Drum, B.S., EMT-P
Community Education & Media Relations Manager
Safe Kids Portland Metro Coordinator
American Medical Response



About Safe Kids Portland Metro and American Medical Response (AMR)

Safe Kids Portland Metro has been helping kids in Portland for the last 17 years. Coalition partners include: American Medical Response (lead organization), Alliance for Community Traffic Safety, Clackamas County Safe Communities, Oregon Poison Center, Oregon Burn Center, Legacy Health Systems, Randall Children's Hospital, Tom Sargent Safety Center at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health Authority, area fire departments and law enforcement agencies. Locally, AMR provides ambulance service and medical transportation in Multnomah, Clackamas and Clark Counties. AMR and its predecessor companies have served Portland area communities since 1913.