

To: Oregon Senate Committee on the Judiciary, April 9th, 2013

Re: Senate Bill 482

I'm writing today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 482.

I work as a Paramedic in Multnomah County for American Medical Response on night shift; my testimony is my own and does not reflect the views of my employer.

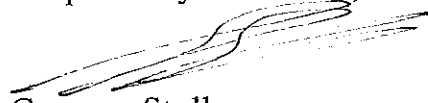
In the course of my employment I am often called upon to transport a wide variety of patients, many of whom are in varying states and levels of intoxication. Many of these patients are being transported against their will, having been arrested and requiring medical treatment prior to being lodged in jail or having been placed on a Police Officer Hold. Many of these patients harbor animosity towards myself and my co-workers for doing our jobs, and as such attempt to harm us. Many are restrained as a result of their legal status, leaving propelled of saliva as their only means of assault. While I am often able to avoid such attacks, from time to time these people are successful in spitting on me.

If passed in it's present form, SB 482 would provide me with an additional verbal tool to discourage these people from propelling their saliva at myself and my co-workers. If they still insist on spitting on me, I would have a legal route to follow and seek recourse. This would help greatly in keeping myself and my co-workers safe; many illnesses and diseases are spread through contact with bodily fluid and we're exposed to more than our fair share without being spit on purposely.

Additionally, in my profession EMT's and Paramedics working for private EMS providers often do not have the same right, benefits and protections as EMT's and Paramedics employed by public EMS providers. My layperson's interpretation makes it appear that there is no distinction between public and private EMS providers in this bill; for that I thank you. It is an unfortunate rarity that such an equal benefit is provided.

I would like to close by thanking the committee for authoring and sponsoring this bill. I encourage you all to vote "yes" on this proposal, both in Committee and on the Senate floor.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory Stoll
Turner, Oregon