



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

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**Testimony in Support of HB 2969
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
April 18, 2013
Genoa Ingram**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

The OFDDA is the voice for these fire protection districts, most of which are small rural districts operating on an all-volunteer basis or with minimal paid positions, usually an office administrator and/or a Chief.

HB 2969 is supported by both the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Special Districts Association of Oregon. Most rural fire protection districts that provide ambulance transport do so independently with fire service personnel staffing the ambulance. Albany Fire Department, Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District, Lebanon Fire District, Redmond Fire Department, Bend Fire and EMS, Pendleton Fire and Ambulance, and Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District are just a few of the fire districts and city departments that provide transport independently. Others contract with ambulance companies to provide this service.

Rural fire protection districts take seriously their jobs as stewards of taxpayer dollars. When they are not reimbursed for services provided, it can have a disastrous effect on their limited budgets. HB 2969 will provide a stabilizing effect on fire districts by insuring that the ambulance transport is reimbursed.

On behalf of the Oregon Fire District Directors and the Special Districts Association of Oregon, we thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this important issue and we urge you to pass HB 2969.
