



EMS SECTION – OREGON FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
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To: Honorable Mark Hass, Chair – Senate Education & Workforce Development  
Committee  
Members of the Committee

From: Mark Stevens, President, EMS Section, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Regarding: Testimony regarding SB275

Date: February 28, 2013

The EMS Section of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association expresses our support for SB275.

The EMTs and paramedics of the Oregon fire service know first-hand the value of bystander CPR. It is the bystander's intervention that helps ensure our crews have a patient to work on.

In Oregon, most if not all fire departments have made investments in cardiac care through the addition of cardiac equipment and many respond with paramedics and advanced life support drugs. However, all the highly-skilled paramedics and equipment in the world can't help if someone does not call 9-1-1 and begin CPR before we arrive. When these elements are in place, a cardiac patient's chance for survival is more than doubled.

Unfortunately, we frequently arrive to find that CPR has not been performed. Hands-only CPR is easy and takes only minutes to learn. If this skill were taught in schools, thousands of lifesavers would enter our homes and public places every year. This simple action would certainly save the lives of many Oregonians.

During the half-hour of this committee hearing, approximately 72 people will suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in this country. With such a simple solution to something so important at hand, we should all move with haste to support SB275.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, President  
On behalf of the Board of Directors  
EMS Section, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association