

TO: Chair Doherty and Committee Members  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Dustin Morrow  
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue  
11945 SW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Tigard, Or 97223

DATE: April 29, 2015

RE: Support of SB 79

Dear Chair Doherty and Committee Members,

My name is Dustin Morrow, and I'm the Deputy Chief with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue. I'm also here on behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Western Fire Chiefs Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 79.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is Oregon's second largest fire department. We serve and protect more than 450,000 citizens within 210 square miles. Our service area includes the following nine cities and portions of three unincorporated counties: Beaverton, Rivergrove, Tualatin, Durham, Sherwood, West Linn, King City, Tigard, Wilsonville, and portions of Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah County. Our 21 fire stations are strategically located throughout our service area, ensuring a quick and immediate response to any situation. Our mission is to protect our communities from the hazards that threaten individuals and families. This means not only responding to emergencies as they occur, but continually looking for ways to strategically prevent or reduce the effects of emergencies.

Our survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest exceed the national average. I attribute this, not only to our department's investment in paramedics, cardiac equipment and drugs on every unit, but our community's demonstrated willingness to perform Hands-Only CPR during a cardiac event.

Our schools are making a difference. Since November 2011, over 15,000 students in our district have been trained in Hands-Only CPR thanks to our partnerships with numerous school districts in our service area, including: West Linn-Wilsonville School District, Tigard-Tualatin School District, Sherwood School District, the Beaverton School District and many private schools throughout our service area. In fact, from January of this school year, through the end of May over 4,000 students will be trained just in our Beaverton schools.

Our collaboration with Valley Catholic Middle School was Oregon's first Hands-Only CPR partnership between a fire department and a school. There, after every eighth grader learns CPR, they each teach friends and family. They also teach members of the public at sporting events, community meetings and family gatherings. This year they taught 700 people at Washington Square with our firefighters.

Senate Bill 79 will save lives. Requiring all Oregon students to be trained in CPR before graduating will bring more than 50,000 trained lifesavers to our communities every year.

Thank you for your leadership and hard work on this issue. We appreciate all the work you are doing for our communities. You are helping to change attitudes about taking action when someone needs help, and you're empowering people with the knowledge to do the right thing.

Oregon's fire service stands ready to assist you and our schools with this simple yet life-saving program.