



DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

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January 29, 2016

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4030 and conceptual amendments

Dear Chair Greenlick and the House Committee on Health Care:

I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know that Douglas County Fire District No. 2 supports HB 4030 and the positive impact it will have on our organization in providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) pre-hospital stabilization and ambulance transport. Our Fire District serves over 95 square miles in Douglas County and includes many rural areas. Demand for emergency care continues to grow and make up approximately 75-80% of our call volume today. When someone calls 911, we are obligated to respond and provide care and sometimes ambulance transport regardless of their ability to pay.

The reimbursement rate for the care and transport of Medicaid patients is far below the cost of providing these services. The costs of providing our services continue to grow each year. This places an increasingly greater financial burden on the EMS system and ultimately the taxpayers. I believe that GEMT is a viable option for Oregon's public EMS providers. The increased revenue that we could receive for these OHP patients would allow us to continue to provide advanced life support pre-hospital stabilization and ambulance transport to our constituents. It would also allow us to develop future models that would provide better, more efficient appropriate medical services for many more Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill for emergency medical services. If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg B. Marlar".

Greg B. Marlar
Fire Chief