

HERMISTON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

320 SOUTH FIRST STREET

HERMISTON, OREGON 97838

OFFICE: 541-567-8822 WWW.HERMISTONFIRE.COM FAX: 541-564-6463

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

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services fully supports HB 4030.

GEMT supplemental reimbursements would make it possible for Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services (HFES) to actually receive adequate reimbursement from medical responses and transports of patients on Medicaid. This funding would allow HFES to finally close the gap on insufficient reimbursements on those specific calls.

HFES consistently loses money on these medical responses and transports thus having to augment the ambulance service with tax revenues designated for fire programs. With GEMT in place that could mean an approximate increase in 25-30% in overall ambulance revenues. This funding increase would allow us to:

- Replace ambulances and life-saving medical equipment in a timely manner.
- Add additional medical personnel to handle the increasing call loads we encounter every year.
- Recuperate sufficient funds to "break even" on these categories of calls.

As a rural Oregon EMS provider we face funding challenges every year and have to make difficult choices on what programs we will fund and/or dis-continue. We encounter increases in expenses annually that revenues are unable to keep up with making this legislation critical to our future success.

Sincerely,



Scott J Stanton
Fire Chief

OUR MISSION

To Protect the Lives, Property, and Environment of all Persons we Serve; To Educate and Enforce Life Safety with Knowledge and Fairness; to Give the Fullest Measure of Service for the Cost.