



ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
200 S. IVY ST, SUITE 180
MEDFORD, OR 97501

January 30, 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:

On behalf of the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association, I am writing to you today to indicate our support for House Bill 4030 – Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT). The Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association represents 21 fire departments providing emergency medical services (EMS) to the citizens of Jackson and Josephine County in Southern Oregon. Two of those departments, Ashland Fire-Rescue and Rogue River Fire District, also provide emergency medical transport services to the members of their communities. Approximately 80% of our agencies calls for service are medical in nature and the demand for medical care continues to grow. Many of our member agencies serve rural communities and struggle to maintain services in light of declining budgets.

For these public agencies providing EMS care in Southern Oregon, the reimbursement rate for the care and transport of Medicaid patients is far below the cost of providing these services. This places an increasingly greater financial burden on the EMS system, and ultimately the taxpayers of Southern Oregon. The reimbursement benefits offered within the GEMT has the potential to greatly assist our member agencies in continuing to providing quality medical care and transport services to our local communities.

Thank you for considering HB 4030 along with the conceptual amendments, and we urge your support for this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Bates".

Justin Bates, President
Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association